

problems of the pulp and paper industry and the steel industry, just to name two.

● (1742)

I am from the city of Hamilton where we have the greatest steel company in the world. How long will that steel company last when we have this government, through EDC, subsidizing steel mills in the United States and throughout the world? How long can it possibly last? I want to stand up and be counted among those against this sort of thing, because it is something that in the long run, for some alleged short-term gains, will put us in very difficult circumstances years down the road. In other words, we are attempting to bankrupt the future of our young people who are even now crying out for help.

An hon. Member: Sold down the river.

Mr. Alexander: Someone says they are being sold down the river. Our young people are looking for more leadership than this government is prepared to give.

There is something else about this whole thing that bothers me. The EDC apparently dislikes members of parliament criticizing its actions. We are elected by our constituents throughout this nation to stand up and be counted and to bring about constructive criticism when we feel it is required. We then have members of a Crown corporation or an agency, whatever you want to call it, who are not accountable to parliament, getting very angry about such criticism. They even go so far as to prepare and send out a bulletin for the edification of the people of Canada. I do not know what this is supposed to be all about, but under the heading "EDC NEWS", dated January-February 1978, there is an article which is in reply to a highly respected member of parliament who, having seen the direction in which the EDC was going, wrote an article which was published in a number of newspapers. The first thing that happened was the EDC replied in this newsletter, or whatever it is, at page 2 in the following words:

In an article that recently appeared in a number of local newspapers, Conservative MP William C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton) called for the abolition of EDC and charged that it was a "threat to the future of some of (Canada's) domestic industries".

The article then has a series of reasons why that hon. member was wrong. This corporation is trying to flim flam and bamboozle the Canadian public. That hon. member had every right to bring to the attention of the Canadian people what he thought was wrong because, unlike members of the government, he realizes that questions are being asked about what is going on. That hon. member was in fact stating that the EDC is providing a lot of money to finance our competition abroad. That is what the hon. member was suggesting. Members of the EDC did not like that criticism, so they got their brain trust together, their lawyers, accountants and speech writers, and prepared this article castigating the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott).

The second question that should be asked is, should the Government of Canada use taxpayers' money to commit loans

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in respect of industries that will eventually hurt our own struggling companies? That was the second question asked by the hon. member. The EDC did not like that and went even further than preparing this article; it conducted a \$20,000 advertising campaign in the *Financial Post*, again to flimflam and bamboozle the Canadian people about the amount of employment EDC was creating.

The hon. member for York-Simcoe, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggan and others who have taken part in committee hearings have tried to determine just how the EDC created the supposed 200,000 jobs. They have not met with success as yet. As the hon. member for York-Simcoe has indicated, this is all a farce and a fraud perpetrated against the Canadian people.

Just let me refer again to this document which is headed "The Method of Estimating the Number of Man-Years of Employment Maintained and Created, Directly and Indirectly as a Result of EDC Support". This is another document issued by those people who are trying to bamboozle not only the Canadian public but, in this case, members of parliament. They did not get away with that because of the efficiency, credibility and intelligence of our financial critic, the hon. member for York-Simcoe, who gets on top of issues like this, holding on as though with the tentacles of an octopus until his opponents cave in under the pressure. Apparently the EDC gave in under that pressure because it is now seeking the sympathy of the Canadian people through a campaign of advertising and articles of this kind in issues of their own news magazine.

Officials of the EDC apparently want carte blanche from the government in respect to all they are doing. On the other hand, the Canadian people are wondering why our pulp and paper industry is going down the drain while at the same time this government, through the EDC, is lending money for the development of the pulp and paper industry outside Canada. The Canadian people were never stupid, and as a result of television they are no longer uninformed. They now realize there is something wrong with the leadership we have been getting.

The people of Canada know that the Steel Company of Canada and the steel company in Saskatchewan will be supplying pipe for the Alaska pipeline. They know that this will be for the betterment of Canadian life. What they cannot understand is why we are lending money, some \$70 million, in order to build steel mills in Texas, Minnesota and New Jersey. This is absolute nonsense. We are attempting to be competitive, and I suggest we can succeed, but why is this government through the EDC trying to undermine the Steel Company of Canada and related industries?

I cannot sit idly by knowing that these things are happening. I have to stand and be counted as one of those who wants to know what is going on.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): But we have to give Ford money to get it to come to Canada.

Mr. Alexander: The hon. member says we have to give Ford money to get it to come to Canada. We do not understand the