

Foreign Control of Canadian Industries

over it. He is just a cipher. He votes when and how he is told to vote. That comes from no less an authority than the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene). He made that declaration some time ago and that is what I am talking about. Is anyone prepared to stand up and open the books of the Liberal party to the general public? Not a taker. You haven't got the guts to do it! You don't dare do it.

With respect to these scurvy accusations by the Minister of Finance about the sources of funds for the New Democratic party, let me put it on the record again—we have said this many times in the past—that our books are open for the public to see because we believe as a political party that we are dealing with the public's business and so the public had better know what our business is.

● (4:50 p.m.)

An hon. Member: Where are the books?

Mr. Howard (Skeena): They are open. Do you want to come down to our national office to look at them? You are welcome at any time. Phone Cliff Scott, our federal secretary. He would be glad to accommodate you.

Mr. Danson: Does he just go to the unions to pick up the money?

Mr. Howard (Skeena): My hon. friend says now that we are going to fix up the books.

Mr. Danson: I did not say that.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Then I apologize. I misunderstood what the hon. member said. In any event, I see that the hon. member for York North (Mr. Danson) wants to speak in this debate, and when he does get the floor I will listen attentively to what he has to say about the campaign funds of his party which is owned and controlled by foreign big business and corporations.

Reference has been made to the Watkins report on foreign control, which I believe was tabled some time in February last year just prior to the Liberal leadership convention and prior to the election being called. Now that the Messiah has been elected with his comfortable majority the government is in a position to bury that task force report on foreign control and not do anything about it.

It was a cabinet committee that appointed that task force. Mr. Gordon was on that committee. He has now gone from this place. Mr.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

Teillet was a member of that cabinet committee. He too is gone. There were three other members of that committee, one of whom is in the chamber now, the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The others were the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner). Where do these three individuals stand on the question of foreign ownership? Were they serious when they appointed the task force? If they were, why has something not been done about it, or was the appointment of the task force a political gesture? Was it an attempt by that great double-standard person, Mr. Pearson, to have his cake and eat it too, to maintain within the cabinet the strong man for foreign ownership, now the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and to say to the general public, "We have appointed a task force to look into foreign ownership," in order to win favour with the Canadian people who are vitally concerned about this matter? It was an attempt to go in two directions at the same time and to get the best of both worlds.

There are those who advance the concept that we should reduce foreign ownership simply for the sake of reducing it. That in itself is not a valuable point of view. On the other side there are those who say we should increase the degree of foreign ownership in this country for the sake of increasing it. And then there is the government that supports the concept—I say this after listening to the speech by the Minister of Finance—of increasing the amount of foreign domination of the economy of this nation simply for the purpose of doing it for its own sake and not out of regard for the benefits that may flow from it. In fact, an economist by the name of A. E. Safarian, who worked with the task force on foreign control, has come to the conclusion that whatever benefits may have accrued or will accrue from foreign equity investment in Canada have been dissipated by the government itself through its lack of policies in a positive way—

Mr. Sharp: Does the hon. member agree with all the views of Professor Safarian?

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I did not hear the question.

Mr. Sharp: Does the hon. member agree with all the views of Professor Safarian?