

Private Members' Business

of natural resources is organized under a co-operative model.

One model of co-operative that has proven quite beneficial in the marketing and sale of resources lies in the agricultural sector. I think of Agropur, the co-operative that regroups milk producers in Quebec as a good organizational example.

Far from me, however, to propose the exact same model for the mineral sector. Mining is a high capital venture and workers, as well as governments, have many priorities to deal with before starting to invest in a new field.

• (1750)

However, it would be feasible to study the possibility of a co-operative system that would help promote further refining of our minerals by finding markets and pooling the production.

[*Translation*]

Co-operatives work very well in Quebec, in our forests, another of our natural resources. They go back to the forties, and were consolidated and rejuvenated in the sixties. They are beginning to accumulate resources, to diversify and to become involved in downstream lumber activities.

[*English*]

Other examples of co-operatives which have been successful are the plywood co-ops in the northwest and on the Pacific coast in the States.

As well, we might want to consider the possibility of helping workers to buy existing installations for the transformation of minerals. In Virginia, the Weirton Steel Corporation was bought by its workers at a cost of \$386 million in January of 1984. That was accomplished after the parent company, National Steel, wanted to close down the shop. There are other examples as well.

I know of many single industry towns that face an uncertain future due to the possibility of mine closures. The workers and their families feel powerless facing a multinational corporation that deals in hard currencies with a specific goal in mind. By helping these workers to participate in a lengthening of the cycle of production, by letting them have a say and to take part in the same

effort, we can only benefit from it in the future. By regrouping co-operatives such as these under an umbrella, we could achieve a more sustainable economic development for our natural resources.

We must increase the integration between sectors and promote greater research and development activities while increasing Canadian control if we are to build these forward and backward linkages from the resource base.

The Department of Industry, Science and Technology has not done enough to promote synergy and create links between the primary sector and the manufacturing sector. More efforts must be made in that department.

Under the Ontario Mining Act, the Ontario government has the power to require companies to increase further processing of ores in Canada but it has allowed a number of specific exemptions. Falconbridge still exports nickel-copper matte to its refinery in Norway while Inco ships nickel oxide sinter and nickel sulphide to its plant in Clydach, Wales, for processing.

Take the case of copper mining in British Columbia. This is a highly unstable industry in which multinational companies produce concentrates solely for export. No copper is currently smelted in B.C., though the development of a smelter and of manufacturing facilities for the production of copper wire could be established.

It is not hard to conceive that the earth does not possess an inexhaustible source of goods for humans to use and sometimes abuse, and that we all must work towards a sustainable form of economic development that would take into account the future generations. We do not want to leave behind only stumps where trees once grew, or gaping holes with all of the richness they once contained spent and gone. We must make intelligent use of these resources that are present in a finite amount.

By promoting value-added products we extend the cycle, and this is the kind of rationalization that would provide a much needed stability.

We deal in a global economy. Some of our weaknesses when faced with strong competition have been shown through failures in the free trade agreement to protect our markets.