

Foreign Investment Review

and risk-taking by Canadians. At the present time, tax-wise an American is in a more opportune position to invest in Canada in many fields than is a Canadian. This situation must be changed to ensure that a Canadian has an advantage if he wishes to invest in such fields in his own country.

Third, we say that Canadian business in general has fallen behind the world in the last few years in research and development. Federal leadership is required to allow us to regain our momentum in this important field, and we intend to outline certain proposals to allow our businesses, especially those Canadian controlled, to regain their ascendancy in the world.

Let me underline our party's position. Research and development are the forerunners of business development. During the last ten years Canada, with all its resources, and potential has fallen into the bottom third of the first 25 countries listed in the World Atlas for 1972 in terms of rate of growth per capita. For a country with the potential of Canada, I think this is a disgrace. It is time that that trend was changed, but it will not change until the government is changed.

Fourth, the Progressive Conservatives believe that our financial institutions should be redirected and structured to ensure that Canadian entrepreneurship can be properly financed within Canada, including a proper financing of regional activities of companies in our five main regions. I think it is interesting that in the speech of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce no reference was made to the fundamental question of competition in Canada. I believe that is a serious oversight and that the government should look into the lending pattern and policies of the Canadian chartered banks. Certainly, our party will do so when we form the government. Surely, at least the question should be asked whether our banks should be allowed to continue to lend literally hundreds of millions of dollars as they see fit, irrespective of the impact on Canadian ownership.

Fifth, we believe that through a more aggressive export policy a positive trade balance in current account can be achieved exclusive of whatever resources are sold. Such a be directed to acquire substantial or controlling interests in Canadian institutions now foreign controlled. In many fields, we believe Canadians could buy sufficient equity to ensure control of many of the multinational corporations themselves, and in this regard we are suggesting it is high time that Canada started to live as part of the world.

• (1640)

To summarize, most Canadians are in favour of economic nationalism, but the question is: What is economic nationalism? To some, it is the taking of positive economic steps to strengthen Canada's position at home and abroad, and that is the Progressive Conservative policy. To others, it is the welcoming of foreign or Canadian investment funds and technology to achieve these ends with the proper safeguards to protect Canadian industry. To others, however, economic nationalism means being insular and defensive in outlook. They would tend to discourage or restrict the investment of foreign funds and technology, even if it meant a lowering of the standard of

Those financings as a rule are on a 10 to 15 year basis. So, how nice it is, Mr. Speaker, to be such a corporation in Canada!

I should not, of course, stop at the General Motors of Canada, Limited example since eight corporations shared half of the one billion, some odd million dollars worth of financing that was arranged by the Export Development Corporation. Of that number, over half were foreign controlled. So, we have the odd situation where the minister comes into the House and, with a few words, spells out a beautiful picture showing how effectively the government is dealing with the problem of multinational corporations in Canada. On the other hand, the actions of his department's Crown corporation and of his anti-dumping tribunal spell out a totally different picture of what the Trudeau Liberal government is in fact doing for Canadian businesses and how they are not solving the problems created by foreign multinational corporations in Canada.

There is a total lack of vision and courage on the part of this government is projecting ahead on a five or ten year basis. It would be a great accomplishment for this parliament to get the present Liberal government to think past their next press release. Press releases seem to be the best four to five years.

Having said that, I believe it is extremely important that my party's position be reiterated on the subject we are discussing today. The hon. member for Trinity pointed out in his initial speech many of the problems that have not been dealt with in the bill. But most importantly, he outlined what the Progressive Conservative party believes would be a sound, positive approach to help Canada in its present position. First, I wish to reiterate that our full employment proposals include a more expansionary budget, coupled with wage and price controls.

An hon. Member: That is five times you have said that.

Mr. Stevens: Just on that point, in reply to the hon. member, may I say that we should say it one hundred times, because hon. members opposite have not started to listen to us. I suggest that this point is no better demonstrated than by what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) said last evening when he was before the—

Mr. Roy (Timmins): A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Timmins on a point of order.

Mr. Roy (Timmins): Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Stevens: I would be more than pleased to take a question later, Mr. Speaker. If I may continue, I point out that the Minister of Finance appeared last night before the finance committee and he and his assistants showed a complete lack of knowledge of the operation of the wage and price controls that have now been instituted in the United States. Theirs was an unbelievable performance. Yet hon. members opposite have the audacity to carry on Our second point is that we believe our tax laws should be changed so as to encourage greater savings, investment

[Mr. Stevens.]