

Sale of Polymer

Mr. Hees: The first honest Liberal this year.

Mr. Stanfield: It is important that members understand this. Under this bill, the Canada Development Corporation is entitled to buy back these shares at the price the government is paying, \$10.15, \$10.50 or whatever it is a share, or if at the time it wants to buy back those shares the book value of the shares of the Canada Development Corporation is less than that price, the government can authorize CDC to buy back the shares for less than the government of Canada paid for them.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Stanfield: In other words, the Canada Development Corporation is not only getting an interest-free loan from the government of Canada, but it may turn out that the people of Canada will be paying interest to the CDC over the years as a result of this transaction. In view of this, it is not much wonder that the great majority of members of the House condemn this transaction. In the first place, there is a conflict of interest. There is a refusal to be open and frank and disclose the appraisals upon which the valuation was based. There is a deal that is not fair to the Canadian people. We are using an opposition day to condemn this transaction. The hon. member for York South and others who have spoken since have said that this condemnation is of no effect. I assure hon. members that if I ever have the opportunity to do so, this transaction will be undone.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Therefore, a vote of condemnation by this House tonight might do a good deal more than the hon. member for York South was prepared to admit this afternoon.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: In any event, this is an important question. Was the sale a proper sale? The vast majority of the members of this House believe it was not a proper sale; there is no question about that. Should not the House have an opportunity to condemn this sale? Obviously, Mr. Speaker, it should. There is no question that the majority of the members of this House condemn this sale. I do not want to be abusive in the way the hon. member for York South was this afternoon. I simply say to him that he is getting tiresome.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: He is misleading. He is intemperate in his language. I could sum it by saying that although generally speaking I have admired the hon. gentleman, he is not really himself.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: In past sessions since the new rules were adopted, members of the New Democratic Party were most anxious to have the right to put forward motions on opposition days which carried with them a vote. We do not hear any more talk about that from my friends to the left. That is the last thing in the world they want to do in this

[Mr. Stanfield.]

session of parliament. To what is this House of Commons being reduced? Is it being reduced to the position where it refuses to express its views on government policy? Has this House of Commons reached the point where it refuses to be counted as to its view regarding a government transaction or government statement of policy?

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) reiterated his concern about what might happen to old age pension legislation and veterans allowance legislation. He could have added to this, as did the hon. member for York South, legislation relating to increased exemptions for senior citizens and students. I simply say to my hon. friends that the passage of a vote of non-confidence in this House tonight does not mean an election. It does not mean that these measures cannot be proceeded with promptly.

• (2040)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Listen to them.

Mr. Hees: They are scared stiff.

Mr. Stanfield: I say to hon. members to my left that if they vote according to their minds and according to their real beliefs, if they condemn this transaction as they believe it should be condemned, and if as a result this legislation is not brought before the House shortly, it will be because hon. gentlemen opposite made that decision. I assure them, that if I were called upon to form a government, this legislation would be proceeded with with the greatest dispatch.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: I say to them, also, that if I were called upon to form a government, I would present the program upon which I would face the Canadian people and I would expect those hon. members to vote non-confidence when they felt my government deserved such a vote; and I would not ask for charity.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: So it is very simple.

Mr. Corbin: Your raft is sinking.

Mr. Stanfield: I am afraid that when the hon. member sinks he will be out of sight for a long time, though it is just possible he may be kept afloat a little longer by his friends in the coalition. I say, we condemn this transaction. Hence the motion of condemnation. I say, let others who condemn this action by the government in their hearts reflect that feeling in the House. Let the House vote according to its mind and its beliefs. Let us not make a farce of responsible parliamentary government in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: It is just as clear as that. The government does not enjoy the confidence of the House.