

*Export Development Act*

Forces? I will not mention things like the Bonaventure overruns and money wasted in defence spending. He is represented as a great president, a great man from the Canadian corporate world, Mr. Speaker. He probably sold newspapers as a young man, and that was probably his last experience with free and private enterprise. As for Mr. Cohen, what more can I say? That is not so much a window, Sir; that is a storm window. Marcel Massé—well, he has done a good job in culture and in some other areas.

● (1610)

**Mr. Blenkarn:** How about business?

**Mr. Forrestall:** How about business? What is his business track record? With Jack Armstrong we come to the first of the private sector appointment. He had a distinguished career with Imperial Oil and he was a member of the board of directors of many very successful and highly reputable Canadian firms. Then we go to Daughney, a businessman, highly successful in his own company with a high reputation throughout Canada for his business acumen, his adherence to good corporate practices, a good addition—an awful Grit, mind you, but beyond that he has some good corporate sense. Then we go right back into the Government sector with Montreuil; G. K. Bouey, another great Canadian businessman; R. Johnstone, a deputy minister, going all the way from clerk 5 to deputy minister, a great Canadian but not a businessman. With A. K. Stuart finally we go back into the private sector. Six directors out of the nine are from the boardrooms of Crown corporations, the departments of Government, and three from the private sector. A reverse of that surely is a simple proposition with which the Minister of State for International Trade can find sympathy and can accept when it comes time for his contribution to this debate.

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure this afternoon to be able to participate in this debate dealing with the Export Development Corporation and the amendment which has been proposed to the Bill by our colleague, the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the original intention of the Bill on the formation of the Export Development Corporation was to ensure that the people in manufacturing in Canada who were undertaking export transactions with foreign countries were assured of their security in those countries with which they were dealing. There was a commitment by the Export Development Corporation to ensure the worthiness of the clients with whom the various manufacturers and entrepreneurs of this nation were dealing. If there were problems with finances or problems due to political disruptions, then, indeed, the Export Development Corporation ensured that the Canadian companies which were involved in these transactions were going to be adequately compensated for their efforts and, in the ultimate sense, Canadian workers and Canadian business would not suffer.

Probably the Export Development Corporation, in that particular sense, fulfilled a very worth-while gap which might have existed before as far as the confidence of businesses in

this country was concerned in dealing with foreign nations which perhaps were not as stable as our own. However, now it appears that the present Government, and the Minister responsible for this corporation, envisage a larger role for the Export Development Corporation.

First of all, I would have to question the validity or the necessity of expanding another bureaucratic machine of this Government. We have too often seen what the expansion of roles of corporations which have been established by this Government has meant to the Canadian economy. I believe I can say without fear of very much contradiction that a substantial portion of this great gross debt which the nation faces today of \$31 billion is due in substantial part to the mismanagement of these major corporations which this Government has allowed to happen.

I feel that what we should be trying to accomplish as Canadians, as parliamentarians and as law makers in this House, is just the opposite. We should be attempting to accomplish and create a situation whereby Crown corporations are much more efficiently managed and much more tightly controlled. Before I get into the mechanics of how that might take place with reference to the Export Development Corporation, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I am pleased to see that interest has been expressed in this area by the present Minister of State for International Trade as he is indeed a fellow Maritimer and one who should have a very deep ingrained sense of responsibility for ensuring that people in the Atlantic Region of Canada are given a fair opportunity of having access to a market, which would have very positive consequences if properly executed.

Atlantic Canada, particularly the Maritime Provinces, is geographically a part and extension of the New England states. We look to—that great vast market in New England of some 40 million or 50 million people. The opportunity for export into that part of the region by the Maritimes is just fantastic, and I feel it should not come as any sort of revelation to anyone with the slightest bit of imagination that people with some foresight and initiative, who were placed in a position of substance in a corporation such as the Export Development Corporation, might be able to exploit the advantage which we have as Atlantic Canadians, as Maritimers, and break into that market in New England.

One example which comes to mind immediately is the development of the silicon industry in Atlantic Canada. I feel that that is almost a natural for our area. The Maritimes, as you are well aware, Mr. Speaker, are largely unpolluted, and the silicon industry, being an extremely clean industry, would fit in very naturally with the sort of atmosphere and environment which we currently enjoy in Atlantic Canada. We do not have pollution now, and we do not want any more, as the saying goes. In that regard, it is necessary that we have people of vision, people who have a proven track record, not people whom we would normally associate with CIDA and not people whom we would normally associate with the monstrous Canagrex legislation and not people with whom we envisage we are now going to associate in the expanded role of nationalization,