

and monetary policy to be self-sufficient. We must not rely only on our neighbours. We need our neighbours, but we must not live because they exist. We should be economically independent, otherwise we shall remain more and more politically dependent as it has been the case in the last few years unfortunately.

[English]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, we know that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) is absent because he is preparing his budget. For a while the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), the minister really concerned with this matter, was present, but I notice he has now left. It is a bit awkward to make any comment on the remarks of the Minister of Finance in his absence. However, I would be prepared to repeat in his presence any comments I make now.

After listening to the minister's speech the greatest compliment I can pay it is to ignore it for it was filled with false statements and scurvy accusations so typical of a Liberal, particularly a Liberal who has been hurt by the truth. The Minister did make some sense in his closing statement. In winding up his speech he admitted that in the area of foreign investment and domination of our economy there are problems. He recognized that fact and declared he was concerned. In that regard it must be clearly understood and recognized that it is the minister alone who is able to do something about this situation. We in the New Democratic party cannot do anything about it, nor can the members of the Conservative party or the Liberal backbenchers, no matter how they feel about this subject. The minister can do something about it, and if he recognizes there is a problem he is derelict in his duty in not doing something about it.

The minister talked about the problems caused by the divided jurisdiction in Canada. He said that the provinces have some jurisdictional or constitutional authority over certain matters and this causes difficulty of action on his part. I wish to point out that under the constitution the federal government and parliament do have jurisdiction over such matters as finance, which is vitally important to us in the control of our economy. They have exclusive jurisdiction over banking and the issuance of money and credit, which are also vitally important. They have exclusive jurisdiction in regard to foreign exchange and relationships with other countries, both of

Foreign Control of Canadian Industries which are vitally involved in the problem of foreign control and ownership. For the minister to proclaim that he faces difficulties in this field because under the constitution jurisdiction is divided with the provinces is simply a lot of hogwash. The authority and responsibility are there.

This causes one to wonder why no action has been taken. Probably one reason why no action has been taken is that the Liberal party is the party of big business, and because big business in Canada is foreign business it follows that the Liberal party is the agent of foreign big business. The Liberal party certainly receives its campaign funds from those sources.

While I am on the subject of campaigns I wish to place on the record apropos of the accusation made by the minister, a false one incidentally, a challenge to the Liberal Party, which has classified itself as pure in the field of campaign fund contributions, to open its books to the public. Let the people of Canada see where they get their dough from. Let them see who owns and controls the government, who pays the shot. Is anyone willing to stand up and make such a statement on behalf of the Liberal Party? Not a soul! Not a single taker! The government wants to keep the source of its campaign funds an absolute secret.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Turner (London East): Mr. Speaker, I challenge the hon. member's statement. I happen to be a working man. I certainly do not have big business behind me in the city of London, Ontario.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): The hon. member is one of those insignificant Liberal backbenchers.

An hon. Member: Come on.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I do not say it unkindly. You are in the same class if you say, "come on". Is there a Liberal member who will stand up and say he knows where the party receives its funds? Is there a Liberal member who is prepared to open the books for the general public to see? I am sure the public would be glad to know. I am asking about the Liberal party, Mr. Speaker, the organization that controls this group over here. I am not talking about the individual backbencher who does not know what goes on in the Liberal party because he has no control