

plants in other countries. There is no doubt that the financial picture of Polymer Corporation is one of which any government could be proud. For example, in 1969, Polymer Corporation paid a \$6 million dividend. At no time in the past decade has the profit of Polymer Corporation dropped below the \$3 million mark.

As has already been indicated, Polymer Corporation is 100 per cent Canadian owned and controlled. Let us keep it that way. Let us keep it under the present administration which is doing a top-notch job of handling it and let the CDC expand into other areas where expansion is needed. The CDC should invest its money in some other resource industries. This is the kind of expansion that Canada needs now. Why start picking on corporations that are already Canadian owned and controlled and, more important, returning a profit to the Canadian people?

I now want to deal with another of these corporations. They are all very important. Eldorado Nuclear was created in 1944. The objects of creating it were to look for, mine and refine uranium. The picture of Eldorado Nuclear has been excellent as far as returns to the Canadian people are concerned. From the time it was created, up to the end of 1969, it has paid over \$30 million in dividends to the Canadian people.

**An hon. Member:** What about taxes?

**Mr. Harding:** Over the same period, it has paid \$30 million in taxes. What more do we want? That is an excellent record. The main objects of establishing this corporation were to look for, mine and refine uranium, one of the key sources of energy in this country. I submit that it has certainly done an excellent job.

In 1969, Eldorado Nuclear had a loss of just over \$1 million. It will probably have another loss this year because of the depressed market for uranium. We must not kid ourselves or the Canadian people into believing that the future of uranium is not bright. We need only look at the potential energy resources of this country to see the desperate need for uranium in the future. For this reason, Eldorado Nuclear which controls this key energy source should be retained as a Crown corporation, 100 per cent owned and controlled by the Canadian people. I see absolutely no validity in the suggestion of the parliamentary secretary that we do not need to amend this bill, but throw this Crown corporation into the pot so that it can be controlled by a corporation which certainly will not be entirely Canadian.

I am not going to deal with all the corporations listed here. There are two more. Everyone of these is paying a profit to the Canadian people. Even more important, they are now Canadian controlled. What is the Liberal party going to do? We now have 100 per cent control. What more do we want? Let us start by having the CDC go into other aspects of the economy which we have lost. This is the objective of Canadians today and this is the objective of our party. We are urging members of the House to accept this amendment, and to give direction and thrust toward gaining control of the Canadian economy for Canadians by retaining these corporations as they

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are now and using the CDC to get into other aspects of the economy where Canadian control is desperately needed.

• (4:10 p.m.)

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** I should like to say a word on this amendment. The last two speakers from the New Democratic Party used arguments with considerable merit when they criticized the government's attempt to bring under the jurisdiction of the CDC four Crown corporations, a move which, if successful, would have the effect of changing the management of these Crown corporations as well as government policy with regard to them. The CDC is, in essence, to be a Crown corporation, yet other Crown corporations are to be placed under its directorship. It is true the major shareholder will be the government, but the directors are to be chosen from the private sector. Polymer, Northern Transportation, Eldorado and Panarctic will be directed by people from the private sector, not necessarily those who are at the present time directing the management of these four successful Crown corporations.

Why is the government so set on the idea that these Crown corporations should be handed over to the Canada Development Corporation? Is it an attempt to entice the unsuspecting Canadian investor, to lure him into investing money in the CDC? If he does so and these ventures turn out to be less profitable from here on, the management not so dedicated or not as capable, then the difficulties of those Crown corporations will begin. Within the last few years, Polymer has invested in a large plant in Europe. If it were placed under the CDC would it continue to possess the independence it has enjoyed up to now, and would it be able to invest in the tire business as it has done recently by investing in a tire manufacturing plant in Europe. One cannot be certain, particularly when one reads the words of the parliamentary secretary as reported at page 6391 of *Hansard* to the effect that the directors will be chosen from the private sector but that the government would remain the largest shareholder and thus would always be in a position to exercise a degree of influence over the policies of the corporation. Will this in fact have the effect of limiting the freedom which these Crown corporations have enjoyed? Every one of them is in competition with similar industries within the private sector, except perhaps for Northern Transportation which some time ago bought out its competitor.

In any case, Eldorado, Panarctic and Polymer are all successfully competing with the private sector. In order to continue to do so they must remain flexible; they must be allowed a degree of freedom so as to meet the demands which competition places upon them. This House and the country need a better explanation than they have been given so far as to why the CDC should be permitted to start off with four such corporations. Why is the CNR not being brought within its scope, if the concept is that Crown companies should be allocated to the CDC? Are only the successful ones to be handed over? Surely, we could take a look at Air Canada, the CBC and a number of others with a view to letting the CDC look