

• (1650)

With reference to this subject, I say to the Canadian labour movement—and I am proud to say it as a member of the NDP—that they have to clean their house. We must give autonomy to Canadian labour unions. They have to change their constitution so that they can have autonomy with regard to their money, their votes and in every other area affecting labour in this country.

In 1958, the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was quite a literary giant. He was writing in a publication called *Cité Libre*. He had some very interesting things to say about Canadian independence. This is what he wrote:

Shall we suffer passively our situation of economic domination? It would be better to be annexed outright by the United States than to be exploited without limit.

That is what he said then; what has he done about it since? In fact, the trend has not only continued but it has accelerated under the jurisdiction of the Trudeau government. The time has come in our history when we must ask ourselves: is this country worth preserving? It is these differences that are worth preserving. I do not think anyone in the House wants to see this country become an extension of Los Angeles or adopt an extension of the American ethic because there is something worth preserving north of the 49th parallel. It is subtle, it is intangible, and it is very hard to define, but it has something to do with the Canadian attitude to life. Perhaps the tradition of settling our differences short of violence and finding by the rational method a solution to what seemed on the surface to be an insoluble problem has something to do with it. We have the tradition in this country of having settled our west with very little violence, unlike the United States. Perhaps what is most important is that we have a chance on this half of the continent to learn from the tragic and serious mistakes that were made in the formation of society to the south, where a climate of violence prevails and where there is one of the highest crime rates in the world.

We have a different kind of experiment on this half of the continent, and I submit that it is well worth preserving. I want to quote Abraham Rotstein of the Committee for an Independent Canada who said:

It's time to interfere in our own internal affairs—

I suggest that this bill really does not interfere in our own internal affairs at all. It is just a kind of watching brief on the continuing sell-out of the country. Abraham Rotstein went on to say:

—to show that after a century of living as bastard Englishmen and bastard Americans, it's all right to be plain Canadians at last.

What Mr. Rotstein and the Committee for an Independent Canada have done has been to cast a strong light on Canadian identity because that Canadian identity will disappear into Baffin Bay if we continue the cultural colonization of this country at the present pace.

I also want to quote Dennis Duffy of the *Globe and Mail* who said:

You can cook a toad so slowly you won't even know it's being done.

That is what has happened, and I say it is time to stop.

### Foreign Investment Review

[Translation]

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, clause 2 of the bill now before the House states clearly, specifically that the Parliament of Canada—

... in recognition ... that the extent to which control of Canadian industry, trade and commerce has become acquired by persons other than Canadians and the effect thereof on the ability ...

Faced with this situation, we cannot but support any measure intended to stir the Canadian people to react to that state of affairs. Still, it is strange, Mr. Speaker, that we should have to speak of taking over the control, since that leads us to ask ourselves why we no longer have it? It was therefore urgent that we should react to that situation, that we should take steps likely to favour typically Canadian undertakings. But we can only arrive at concrete and tangible solutions if we try to determine the causes of our difficulties.

How is it that for years we have had hardly any protest against the fact that we dress ourselves in foreign clothes, that most of our consumer goods are made abroad? How can we explain that we even buy some of our food products abroad?

Mr. Speaker, it is obviously our present financial system which is the cause of this. Why do these difficulties exist? It is because we have ignored a basic principle on which any investment policy should be founded, which is that the spirit of initiative that brings Canadians to set up manufacturing industries, or to found companies, is totally paralyzed, quite simply through lack of capital. As the sole source of such investments is foreign capital, it is hardly surprising to see that the investors finally take control. This is to be expected.

Mr. Speaker, first, we should ask ourselves to what extent do we need foreign investment to promote exclusively Canadian production, and whether or not we have the necessary raw materials. Second, we should ask ourselves if we have sufficient labour to manufacture what we need. Third, we should ask ourselves if we have the engineers we need to set up plans and make the extrapolations, in a word, to know exactly where we are going.

• (1700)

If we asked ourselves those three questions, Mr. Speaker, all hon. members of this House would agree of course that surely we are not short of raw materials in this country. We are short of nothing—I have said so on many occasions—except lemons, oranges, grapefruits and bananas. In brief, we are short of nothing in Canada. We even have pears in abundance.

Mr. Speaker, we have all the natural resources, all the raw materials that we require to manufacture all the products that we need for domestic consumption. We have—and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) knows that more than anyone—nearly one million unemployed in Canada. So we are not short of manpower. And since we have more universities and colleges which now train engineers, scientists in all fields, surely we are not short of experts either.

With those three essential elements, why, Mr. Speaker, ask ourselves if we need foreign capital? That is what we have done in the past, and that explains the considerable