

*Export Development Corporation***GOVERNMENT ORDERS****EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION****MEASURE TO PROVIDE INSURANCE,
GUARANTEES AND LOANS
TO DEVELOP TRADE**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lang (for Mr. Pepin) that Bill C-183, to establish the Export Development Corporation and to facilitate and develop export trade by the provision of insurance, guarantees, loans and other financial facilities, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of Bill C-183, now under consideration, is to establish a corporation to facilitate and develop export trade by the provision of insurance, guarantees, loans and other financial facilities as indicated in the explanatory notes of the bill. In other words, the government intends, through various financial provisions, loans, insurance and credit, to facilitate and to increase the exportation of goods and services.

In fact, it is for Canada a matter of increasing its exports to countries or nationals who can pay for the products they buy. On the other hand, if they are not in a position to do so, the government, or the corporation it plans to establish, undertakes to protect the Canadian exporters or manufacturers by taking the necessary means to give them a compensation in case of insolvency. Such are, it seems, the purpose of Bill C-183 and the philosophy of the Canadian government. In that respect, Mr. Speaker, several questions come to our mind. Why do we ask the Canadian exporters to increase exports, even though their customers may not be able to pay for the goods or services delivered? Why does the Canadian government feel compelled to guarantee the reimbursement of unpaid bills by foreigners while the Canadian producers and merchants who deliver goods or services to Canadian customers do not enjoy similar benefits if their customers are unable to pay?

In other words, why would not the government give Canadian consumers a guarantee enabling them to buy goods and services without paying for them, since the government would take the responsibility of doing so?

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

Such are a few of the questions that come to our minds as we read Bill C-183.

But why all those efforts to increase Canadian exports? It is because foreign countries have a purchasing power which will enable Canadian producers to keep their plants going, to give work to more people that will make more purchasing power available to Canadian consumers and will enable them also to buy Canadian products and services, and come what may, let turn the wheel that brings grist to the mill, that keeps the industry going, that provides profits and returns and enables the government to levy more taxes.

Thus, in order to increase exports, they resort to plans and devices of all kinds, in short they enable foreigners to get our products easily.

Here is what the former Liberal member for Saint-Denis said during a broadcast on the Montreal radio station CKAC, according to the former Liberal newspaper *Le Canada*, in its edition of August 30, 1947, and I quote:

"In spite of the sayings of demagogues whose insight is more than limited, the Liberals do not give anything to foreigners for Canada produces 40 times more than its people can consume, and without exports and loans, whenever necessary, we would have a production surplus, plants would close and we would be facing starvation, unemployment and utter poverty."

As for exports, there would be a crisis, unemployment and utter poverty. Such was the philosophy of the Liberals in 1948; such is still their philosophy 20 years later. And these people are called progressive and open-minded. They say themselves that they have new ideas, that they bring a new philosophy, so that Canada might be governed according to new formulas.

Let us listen to what the Minister for Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) said in a speech he made last March 28 at a seminar on economic development, in Chicoutimi. I quote:

Essentially, regional development is aimed at creating new possibilities for employment and promotion in underdeveloped areas and helping people to take advantage of them.

And he added this:

The first imperative of social justice is to provide enough jobs. It is a basic economic problem, but it is also an essential social problem.

The second imperative is to keep the jobs in harmony. The third one is to have people use the services which they need in order to take advantage of the opportunities for decent employment.