

*The Canadian Economy*

Despite all the time that has been taken by this government to produce this document, there is no provision for provincial consultation, either in connection with decisions or in connection with guidelines.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** Surely, we all realize that if there is going to be any effective approach in this country toward increasing Canadian participation and toward Canadian ownership, it has to be a joint federal-provincial effort.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** This policy ignores any provincial involvement. Therefore, it is not only a slow start, but it is a bad start. It is going to lead to bad feeling.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I notice a lot of smirks from members opposite. I say again that a policy designed to monitor or regulate investment in this country must, at the very minimum, increase the sense of national unity rather than divide or weaken it. Surely, that is the basic consideration.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** It is surely clear that the restriction of foreign takeovers in itself in no way ensures even the survival, let alone the expansion, of Canadian companies faced with sharp competition from industries in other countries, as well as from subsidiaries of foreign corporations here at home. It cannot be emphasized too much that this policy does not ensure the continuation, let alone the expansion, of Canadian companies in the teeth of competition that they face. Furthermore, no effort has been made to increase the Canadian presence in existing subsidiaries in Canada. For example, there is no suggestion that a certain proportion of the directors of all companies in Canada ought to be Canadian citizens.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** There is no provision for full disclosure by subsidiaries of foreign corporations. There is no suggestion that there may be certain key sectors of the economy, even with the entry of new capital into areas of the economy, where regulation should be considered. Above all, if we are going to increase Canadian participation in the Canadian economy, we need positive measures, measures designed to enable Canadians to participate in the development of Canadian industry and measures to enable Canadian industries to thrive. After all, that is the only effective method of making sure that we control our own economy to meet our own aspirations and create the jobs that we need in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** We must have policies aimed at ensuring that Canadian industries, big and small, have access to capital for expansion and markets for the sale of their products and their services.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Mr. Stanfield.]

**Mr. Stanfield:** When the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) is asked what we are going to do about this, he says we are going to institutionalize our arrangements with the common market. When he is asked what that means, he says he will do the same as we do in our relations with the United States. All the problems of Canadian industries operating in the climate that exists in the world were dealt with by the minister today in one paragraph of his statement.

In terms of the real needs of Canada, this is a weak document. We need policies that will encourage Canadians to invest in their own country. We need policies that will encourage the kind of capital growth in Canada that will, in turn, ensure jobs for Canadians.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I cannot overemphasize that the kind of policy the minister presented today does not in any way promote increased participation by Canadians in the Canadian economy. It does not promote this in any way. I look forward to the budget. I hope it is a more meaningful document than this.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** In a country with a massively growing labour force and intolerably high unemployment, the minister's statement is not enough. In a country where domestic projections are running far behind what is required to eat into unemployment, this is not enough. In a country with so much of its entrepreneurial talent left to linger in frustration because it cannot be connected with a pool of domestic venture capital, this kind of statement is not enough. We want more Canadian participation in, and ownership of, the Canadian economy. Today's statement is tragically short of what is required. The minister's statement would not even make a good leak.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** All the government has done has been to institutionalize what it has already been doing. Where is the spirit of imagination and initiative in what the government has presented? Where is the sense of orientation to the need for jobs and careers? Where do we see the government spelling out a means of developing investment in our own economy by Canadians? Have we become so stale, stultified and safety conscious in the circles of tenuously held power as to be virtually impotent to do something ourselves about our own destiny? Surely, there is a positive side to the investment and ownership picture. Surely, there are principles which must guide our approach in regulating foreign investment—there are practices which must be explored, and the best of them pursued to promote domestic investment and ownership.

• (1720)

**An hon. Member:** We are waiting.

**Mr. Stanfield:** The hon. member says he is waiting. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people have been waiting for months and years to get this document, and look what it is.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!