

able. I remember that we financed some countries in the purchase of our wheat. Many of them were not our customers or interested in any way in doing business with Canada. When they came to Canada to buy wheat we loaned them the money. That money was watched very carefully by everyone in the industry, particularly the Wheat Board. It was not too difficult to find out what the payments were, what the arrears were, and whether the recipients of these loans were making repayments on time, and to what extent. The corporation did a good job in this respect, and many of these countries are still buying from us.

I should like the minister to indicate why a company such as INCO has to be assisted in its operations in foreign countries. I suggest that INCO goes into foreign countries because it can make money. The same is true of the Brazilian Traction Company. One can name many companies with very large reserves, larger in many cases than the reserves of this corporation, which have gone into foreign countries for the simple reason they can make a profit on their transactions.

There is a threshold in respect of the size of loans that can be granted. I think it is in the neighbourhood of \$1 million gross in respect of a company's operations. This means that small companies cannot borrow under the insurance or loan provisions of the Export Development Corporation. I cannot speak for the area of Vancouver, as I am not too familiar with the industrial situation there, but certainly here in the golden triangle and in the area immediately adjacent to Montreal EDC loans are limited to a small number of corporations. Most of these companies do not have the same needs that the smaller companies have, but we keep the small companies out. Many of these small companies could develop markets in the export field, and those are the companies that should have the right to borrow. Those are the companies that should be given guarantees in respect of operations on the export market.

As a result of the loaning provisions of the EDC few small companies in northern Ontario can benefit. The only companies in that area that can obtain loans are the large mining corporations which already have an unlimited money supply. These large corporations can obtain EDC funds to go into the Sudbury Basin for development purposes there. A company such as Texas Gulf can easily obtain a DREE grant for development in northern Ontario. If Texas Gulf wants to establish another corporation in another part of the world I am sure the government would help it do so, even if that meant closing down its operations in the Timmins area.

In many cases we are defeating our own purposes, particularly in those areas where development should be taking place through the operations of small companies that wish to get into international markets. It seems to me this is not possible since most of the efforts of the EDC are directed to companies that are already so big they do not require the kind of assistance we provide. Maybe it is because North American countries and the Arab countries, the new power bloc, have export-import assistance so that trade can flow from their areas. This is not what we are doing in terms of Canada. We are providing this money so

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that other countries can buy from Canada. However, we are not doing anything for the Canadian companies.

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I find that no assistance is available to the companies in my area. Some of those companies deal with almost every country in the world. I am sure that if they wished to obtain a loan to provide sophisticated mining exploration equipment to newly developing countries, where there may be the possibility of some mining development which would be advantageous to that country, they would not be given assistance because they are not in the range that allows for such development.

This is another hand-out to the multinational corporations, those that borrow with one hand and give it to themselves with the other. We have certainly seen this kind of operation with the multinational oil companies which have the oil wells, create the shortage and jack up the prices to customers, both in the producing and importing countries.

A great displacement is taking place in all segments of our economy. This has an immense world effect. Some of the countries involved deal with this corporation. They are reacting in a way that is causing some concern to the multinational corporations. I know that at least one of my colleagues is very concerned because he cannot get any justification, reason or philosophy with regard to the loans that have been made, obviously in a political sense, and are being used to interfere with the economies and political structures of the countries which receive the loans. This is foreign to Canadian philosophy.

Canadians have donated as much to underdeveloped countries in the period we have had the capability to do so as any other country. Our contribution to others less fortunate is probably better than that of most other countries. However, I think the government has been less than fair with parliament in the reports that we receive. It has ignored completely the political and economical role it has played with this Crown corporation in terms of aiding and abetting the CIA in South America, the whole area where the Organization of American States is involved.

The government is now getting into another field that is equally important. I am very concerned about this, as is the average Canadian. It will not be long until this corporation is asked to provide either nuclear reactors or enriched uranium, or both. We got into a world problem with regard to oil. Canada has been fortunate. If we had not been exploited by the United States and the oil companies with their desire to pump and sell oil at any price, we would have had a considerably larger resource on a continuing basis. We now face the problem of finding an ultimate form of energy. I think the answer in the next 25 to 50 years will be in the nuclear field.

It is important that we seriously consider all sales of nuclear reactors. The EDC must not fall into the role of providing political and economical interference in other countries because of this valuable but very dangerous source of energy. Should we allow the companies in the Elliott Lake area to operate under private initiative and borrow money?

On a recent trip to France the Premier of Quebec asked the French government to provide sums of money to estab-