

plants out of difficulty. It will not be involved with those companies which have very large hope of success.

I would be prepared to invest a few dollars in Home Oil. Knowing the long-term debt which they have and the manner in which it is secured, if I had the money I would be prepared, along with a small number of people, to invest \$10 million in Home Oil. This company controls a large distribution company in England and one in the United States which handles gas. It controls a large company which handles rail containers for butane and other gases. It controls approximately 360 producing wells, many of them capped, and has a large interest in 500 million acres in Alaska. If I were in charge of that company I would be able to control production and distribution of oil through leases held by the company. The government will not invest \$10 million to take over some of the current liabilities of the company in order to provide the Canadian public with this kind of organization.

What did the government do with regard to books? This subject has been widely touted. The Conservatives in Ontario were in a position to do something, but what did they do? They all sat back in pride. I am sure that some members of the United Church even prayed that the United Church of Canada would be a responsible organization and retain the ownership of Ryerson Press in Canada. How much money did it involve? In the future, the majority of text books for Ontario students will be purchased from an American company. Canadian history will be written by Americans and published in the United States. Obviously they will rewrite the battle of Queenston Heights. If they are brave, they will rewrite the battle of the Plains of Abraham. I do not know on which side they will come down. The cost to the Canadian public will be fantastic through the loss of our major book-producing companies, the textbook industry in particular, and the important role it must play in Canadian education. The minister will say he could not get involved because it is a provincial matter. The government of Ontario will say they could not get involved because they were not sure they had jurisdiction. While the matter was being discussed, the transaction occurred. It is the type of thing that once we lose it, we can hardly rebuild it.

We need a Canadian development agency. I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto). He talked about establishing the kind of corporation that I suggest. He mentioned there was a great deal of difficulty sorting out capital that is being retained by insurance companies, banks through savings and the type of capital that is normally used to develop companies. The government should pay attention to what that hon. member said yesterday. He seems to know what he is talking about, which is more than most members of the government when it comes to finances. It is certainly more than I know, because my knowledge in this field is limited.

If all hon. members seriously consider this matter, they will be of the opinion that if the Canadian public are given the opportunity to invest in a bona fide Canada Development Corporation they will do so for several

Canada Development Corporation

reasons. They will invest because they know that a company which is properly operated by the government can be a success. Even more important than the amount they may receive in return is the fact they will be launching many new businesses in this country which will remain in Canadian hands.

• (4:40 p.m.)

There is a small smelter in my area. It has had a sad history; I shall not go into all the details. I am sure, though, that if an agency like the CDC were operating now in the way in which I hope it will eventually operate, we would be lending money to establish a smelter in the Cobalt area to smelt silver and precious metal ores in northern Ontario. The smelter we already have is reported to be holding a large amount of silver against the international price of silver. Because the price is low, it is losing money and it may have to close down. Some people may say, "So what?" Well, if it closes down there will be nowhere in Canada to which silver mines can send their ore. This might not matter much, except that in the area of which I speak more than 25 per cent of the work force is unemployed. There are still 450 miners working in the lode silver industry in the area, some of them in mines which have been in continuous operation for 60 years.

As I say, the industry has had its ups and downs. They sent their ores originally to Montana, though they did some smelting in Cobalt. From time to time they renewed their relationship with the St. Helena, Montana, smelter. The United States smelting company is not very interested in handling the ore because the arsenic content of Cobalt ore is exceptionally high. So there has to be a smelter in the area. I am not suggesting we should buy the smelter which is already there, or nationalize it, or take it over. It all depends on whether or not it is an economic proposition—perhaps it is not, in which case the government is partly to blame because it along with a number of others decided to melt down its silver currency. Carloads of silver were coming in from the Canadian Mint, from the United States, from Mexico and from South American countries. To deal with this work, the company expanded its operations. Finally they possessed a smelter which was larger than was necessary for the smelting of the local ores.

I believe this is the kind of proposition in which the CDC could invest. It would be providing a service for the area, it would be doing so on a sound economic basis and it could do so profitably. In addition, the government would be serving its own interests, because we still need monetary silver. In addition, the smelter would be playing a much larger role in the economy of the whole silver industry. If something is not done along these lines, what is the alternative? We shall end up paying welfare benefits to all the people in the area because most of them have reached an age at which they cannot be retrained or relocated.

The entire municipality of Cobalt is dependent upon whether or not a smelter is in operation. I do not know whether free enterprise will invest in such an undertaking. I would think not. In any case, private enterprise