

The Address—Mr. Rodriguez

I am quoting this from the arguments that I raised when we were discussing Bill C-9 in committee in 1974. I asked, "If the Export Development Corporation is interested in the development of the Third World, do its officers actually investigate on the site; hold discussions with local people? Is the particular development welcomed by respected and knowledgeable people in the community?" The EDC said it was not, rather, in the business of judging local politics but, when, they were in the business of lending money.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is our money they are lending. If the money is lent to help the Guatemalans take control of their economy so as to develop it along the lines they want, then I am all for it. But, in effect, it is not. And what about Indonesia? Amnesty International has just published a list of people who are kept in prison in Indonesia without trial, and are often tortured. This is another area of the world in which INCO is interested and has obtained Canadian taxpayers money. In every instance where INCO has moved there has been a dictatorship. There has been a malleable work force. INCO is given iron-clad agreements with respect to mining acts. They exploit those countries' resources and then they turn around and say to the Canadian government, "Give us more tax concessions or we shall have to lay off Canadian workers."

I do not pretend to know all the ins and outs of being in government or in cabinet, but here, for example, is what Eric Kierans, who was a cabinet minister in the Liberal government, and he is well versed in the economics of this country, said:

There has never been a period of such unparalleled growth in assets and income in the corporate sector as that obtained by the 311 largest corporations in Canada and, equally, there has never been such an outpouring of hostility toward elected governments.

He went on to say that the irony of the situation is that the corporations have profited because of government policies, and that these policies have given them the power to curb potential competition. He continued:

It is obvious (by looking at tax policy) that the government favours corporate concentration and mergers in Canada—

That is what they keep telling us, Mr. Speaker—that we have to have our own multinationals to compete with the American, German and Japanese multinationals. Mr. Kierans continued:

Large-size firms . . . (and) established firms are accorded privileged status that compounds the difficulties and barriers facing new firms . . .

Existing corporations are cementing their grasp on future resource development by being able to write off huge sums (\$1.6 billion in 1973 and 1974) for exploration and development investments.

With regard to the situation in Sudbury—I know my time is coming to an end and that I will not get unanimous consent to continue, nor would I ask for it, Mr. Speaker—there is an immediate solution which it is incumbent upon this government to supply. The government ought immediately to announce the stockpiling of nickel. This has been done in the wheat industry and with butter. It has been done in the uranium industry for seven years, and it has been done with gold for years and years. I see the Minister of Employment and Immigration shaking his head. What he proposes is job-

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sharing. INCO loves job-sharing because that means the taxpayers of Canada subsidize, through unemployment insurance funds, the payment of the workers, while INCO gets the nickel produced at even lower cost.

This government has the responsibility to restore confidence in the economy of the Sudbury basin as well as in Thompson, Manitoba. What it is going to cost to keep the workers will far exceed what it will cost to buy the nickel. At least, when we have bought the nickel we will have the value in the product itself. When you pay the workers unemployment insurance, you have nothing at the end of 50 weeks. Once the workers get on the treadmill of not being productive and not working, then I am afraid it may become a way of life.

What do I have to say to this government? I beg them to say right now to INCO, "Withdraw the announcement of cut-backs, and we will sit down and look at the alternatives for the long term. At the moment, to secure those jobs and the economy of the basin, we will stockpile nickel". This is not unknown in the Canadian experience, and the government should do it because it was the government that got us into this mess in the first place.

I see you resting back in your chair, Mr. Speaker, so I must have another minute.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member because his time has expired.

● (1452)

[*Translation*]

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, to respect an old tradition, I wish to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the throne speech. First of all, I must say that I was not at all surprised when I listened to the Speech from the Throne. Since it came straight from the Prime Minister's office, no wonder his senior advisers emphasized the basic tenets of the Liberal party in dealing with inflation, unemployment, controls and decontrol, temporary job-creating programs and its next big issue, national unity. What surprised me most, Mr. Speaker, is that the day after in his speech, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) recognized that basically the province of Quebec was not a province like the others, but that it must be treated like the others.

For many years, we have tried to explain to him and to have him understand that the province of Quebec was not a province like the others with a majority of English-speaking people, because of its language, its culture and even its Civil Code which is different, while all the other provinces have the common law. What is even more surprising, the Prime Minister has yet to recognize that all Canadian provinces are different because they all have their own characteristics. Indeed, that is the earmark of Canada, namely that its provinces all have their own identity and have decided to live in an economic union while preserving their own personality, as the children of a large family who have different characters but are close to have a better family life.