

*The Address—Mr. Douglas*

The former Minister of Finance, the member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon) started out three years ago with high hopes of buying back the Canadian economy. Now he is sitting with some other former ministers in the parliamentary penalty box. I am afraid he did not get much support from his colleagues in his fight to regain control of the Canadian economy.

I am wondering what the new team is going to do. I must say that my fears are not allayed when I see that the Departments of Finance and Trade and Commerce have been taken over by the gold dust twins from Bay Street. The real test of how serious the government's intentions are will be faced when it brings down legislation for the Canada Development Corporation. As it was originally envisaged, it was to be a government operated and sponsored corporation, through which the Canadian people could use their collective savings for the purpose of supplying equity capital for new industry, and buying industry that might fall into the hands of foreign investors. The savings might have been eventually used to buy back some of the Canadian economy.

Let me say to the government that if what it brings before us is that watered down version proposed last year, by which we are merely going to have a gigantic mutual investment fund controlled by financial institutions, what will eventually happen will be that the fund will be used to maximize profits. It will not be used to do the two things it ought to accomplish.

In the event the government does propose that watered-down version, this development corporation will not go into the underdeveloped areas of Canada where the risk is high and it will not be primarily concerned in the development of a Canadian identity.

This raises the question I put to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) yesterday. The Prime Minister ought to make a statement to us about this matter of membership in the Organization of American States. A few weeks ago in Jamaica he said that the government would seriously consider an invitation to join the O.A.S. At Banff a few months ago he said to some students:

I believe that before long we will take our share of responsibility as a member of the O.A.S.

That is a queer way to announce government policy—by statements tossed over the shoulder to a group of students, or in some other country. If the government seriously intends to take Canada into O.A.S. membership, it should state in this house what the

intention is, give us the reasoning behind that intention so parliament can have an opportunity of discussing the matter. I am sure that all members in the house, and certainly those of this party, want an assurance that no decision respecting joining the O.A.S. will be made, and that no commitments will be given until this whole question has been submitted to parliament, particularly to this parliament of minorities.

This whole question of Viet Nam, upon which the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) touched this afternoon, will have to be discussed more fully at some later date. In view of the fact it has been mentioned by both those gentlemen, I should like to say that we in this party believe the policies pursued by the United States in Viet Nam are wrong. We believe they are legally indefensible and morally inexcusable.

President Johnson has appealed in letters to various countries for aid. We have not seen those letters and there is some dispute between the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) as to whether or not such a letter has been received or what it contains. Certainly Australia and New Zealand have interpreted letters of a similar nature as requests for military aid.

There can be no doubt about the appeal by Dean Rusk to NATO partners for assistance to the United States in Viet Nam. So far the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs have hidden behind the fact that Canada is a member of the International Control Commission, and therefore any military aid from Canada would be out of the question.

We should have something better to say than that. Even if Canada were not a member of the International Control Commission, surely we ought to have a clear statement from the government that Canada will not participate in any military ventures in south-east Asia, except by way of action as a member of a peace keeping force under the United Nations or the Geneva accord powers. The Prime Minister should know that any attempt to involve Canada by giving military aid to the United States in Viet Nam in any way, shape or form will split this country as it has not been divided since 1917.

• (9:50 p.m.)

I want to say that as far as our party is concerned we will oppose any military participation by Canada with every force at our command. We do not say this because we are