

Measures to Develop Trade

Hon. Otto E. Lang (for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved:

That Bill C-183, an Act to establish the Export Development Corporation and to facilitate and develop export trade by the provision of insurance, guarantees, loans and other financial facilities, as amended by the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs be further amended by striking out the word "to" in the phrase "and to fix the terms and conditions of his appointment and his remuneration" inserted by the Committee after the word "being" at line 40 of page 3 thereof and by substituting therefor the word "shall".

He said: Again, Mr. Speaker, this is merely a drafting change which will result in carrying out the intention of the committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Lang, for Mr. Pepin) agreed to.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved:

That Bill C-183, to establish the Export Development Corporation and to facilitate and develop export trade by the provision of insurance, guarantees, loans and other financial facilities, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion (for concurrence) agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): When shall the said bill be read the third time?

Some hon. Members: Now.

Some hon. Members: By leave.

Mr. Lang (for Mr. Pepin) moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few points with respect to the bill before it passes because it deals with a matter of tremendous concern to Canada, namely, our trading position and the development of trade between Canada and other nations.

I wish to point out what I think has been a failure in government policy over many years, which also extends to some provincial governments. I refer to what I consider to be the over-enthusiastic manner in which the government promotes the export of our natural resources in their raw or near-raw state. This may be all right for renewable resources such as wheat, lumber, timber and even logs, because with proper conservation

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard).]

practices they will be available for future generations.

I do not consider it to be in the best interests of Canada to exert so much effort to promote the export of resources such as minerals which are not renewable. We are exporting the material either in a raw state or in a near-raw state in the form of concentrates. So far as minerals are concerned, we are left simply with a hole in the ground because we have exported resources that cannot be renewed.

By exporting our resources of raw materials we are also exporting job opportunities. In addition, we are contributing to an imbalance of payments with other countries. We import into this country finished products manufactured from the same raw materials we have exported. We pay much more for them than what we receive from the sale of the resources. By endorsing the export of Canadian concentrates from British Columbia, we are putting ourselves in the position of being unable in the future to develop in the Canadian mining industry smelting and manufacturing plants.

Each time we export these concentrates to another nation we deny ourselves the opportunity to process these concentrates in later years when we may be in a position to promote seriously smelting and manufacturing industries. This government and its predecessors have not exhibited any great concern about the necessity of promoting secondary manufacturing industry in Canada or using our natural resources to develop remunerative jobs and positions for Canadians.

The government seems content with and intent upon selling out the resources of Canada for an immediate, small, short-range gain. It does not seem to be able to look into the future to the time when these resources will be of value to our country. This field must be promoted. Perhaps the Department of Regional Economic Expansion will concern itself with this field more intensely than has been the case in the past, or more intensely than the present policy of that department indicates. The fundamental point is that when we export our raw materials or natural resources in their near-raw state we are exporting job opportunities for Canadians. We are denying ourselves the opportunity of promoting the economic well-being of Canadians by exploiting our own wealth for a short range benefit.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Although no one on the government side is paying too much attention to me at the