

value of Polymer and what little money it is making. What is he trying to do with this undertaker philosophy? Surely if you are going to try and get people to invest in the Canada Development Corporation, you do not want to tell the House on March 26 that the CDC has bought a "turkey".

I do not know why the ministers are trying to destroy the Canada Development Corporation. If you want to sell the Canada Development Corporation and prove that Polymer was a good buy, speak about all the opportunities that Polymer will have, if they took the finger out and went to work on the petro-chemical industries where they should be and got at the market.

I realize that my time is almost up, Mr. Speaker. I would like to believe that in all parties of this House there is a common desire to try to save the concept of the Canada Development Corporation. We on this side do not approve of what it is doing. We do not approve of what Walter Gordon proposed when he suggested buying back companies owned by foreigners. The Canada Development Corporation should be a place where Canadians can pool their funds and get at the ownership of companies when they are developing. That is where the money is and that is where the control is.

I hope that the New Democratic Party will come back to the principles they used to hold. I hope that in the Liberal party there are many who still believe as Walter Gordon believed, that there is a place for Canadians to invest in Canada. By the government's actions these past two years on the Canada Development Corporation and by shifting Polymer, as well as other things, it is destroying what little chance this institution had to make a useful contribution. I hope that in their conscience all members will vote this administration out and get this country on its way again.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, during the course of the opening remarks of the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), he said that upon seeing me in the House he hoped I would rise and participate. I indicated that I would. However, what surprises me is the lack of initiative shown by the hon. member for Halton (Mr. O'Connor).

When the former member for Halton was in this House, Polymer Corporation was thinking of expanding. He found out that it might be moving into his constituency. He moved heaven and earth by calling management personnel, boards of directors and everyone else and was eventually successful in having Polymer, when it began its diversifying program, develop in the riding of Halton. Today I ask, where is the member for Halton and why is he not participating in this debate?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cullen:** I was prepared to take notes on the comments made by the hon. member who spoke before me. However, after listening to his speech, I gained the impression that too many Conservatives took part in the throne speech debate and the budget debate and since, he did not get an opportunity at that time, he felt this might be a good time to work in a speech. The hon. member for

### *Sale of Polymer*

Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) had very little to say about the sale of Polymer to the Canada Development Corporation.

My first reaction upon reading the motion of the hon. member for Yukon was that it is a little late in the day for such a move. At the time of establishing the Canada Development Corporation, it was made quite clear that it was the intention of the government that the Canada Development Corporation should have the right to purchase crown corporations and, among them, Polymer Corporation. The hon. member for Yukon said it was shrouded in secrecy, it came as a surprise move and nobody knew about it. That is pure, unadulterated nonsense and the hon. member knows it.

One gets the impression that the heart of the Progressive Conservative party is no more in this particular motion than it was in an earlier motion to prohibit members of the Senate from sitting on the special committee on food prices. That motion was a political tactic, as is this one, in the hope of embarrassing the New Democratic Party.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cullen:** What makes this move so weak is the fact that it is so patently obvious. Unhappily, and this is what makes me seethe with anger, it works to the detriment of Polymer Corporation and the effectiveness of the Canada Development Corporation. This really disturbs me. It endangers the jobs held by those who are presently working at Polymer Corporation.

• (1720)

The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) says the Conservative party has been consistent. I would agree with him in this: they have been consistently wrong. How short are the memories of members of the Conservative party. We heard the hon. member for Yukon today pay tribute to the calibre of Polymer management and administration. But only a year ago when people were laid off by Polymer the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt), the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) and others in his party, were damning that same management for the action taken at that time. Is this consistency, Mr. Speaker?

When action was taken to dismiss workers in Polymer Corporation, particularly those in the research and development branch, the suggestion was made that the federal government should do something to preserve these jobs. This, in effect, is what has been done as a result of the sale. The federal government set up a joint chemical committee. The petro-chemical industry is experiencing trouble not only in western Canada. Contrary to what was said by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, it is experiencing trouble all across Canada. Besides, we in Sarnia are not thinking just of eastern Canada. We are thinking of all of Canada. We are not trying to take industry out of western Canada and put it in eastern Canada. We say we want to do what is best for the petro-chemical industry generally. If it is better to put it in western Canada, by all means do so. But let us not locate it in one section with the result that eastern Canada suffers.