

● (9:20 p.m.)

Instead of doing this, we are moving in the opposite direction. We find that many of the subsidies and grants under this program are given to private industries and corporations that are not Canadian. We continue with a policy of continentalism which puts the decision-making process more and more solidly into the hands of multinational corporations outside the control of our government. This means that not only do we lose control of the decision-making process, but that we are exporting jobs to the United States.

We are basically exporters of unfinished products and importers of manufactured goods. Because of this we are exporting many jobs each and every year to the United States and other countries. This is the result of our having a branch plant economy and the government not having the courage to stand up and reverse the trend of continentalism in Canada. But even worse, I believe we are the only country in the western world that sets very few rules in respect of foreign corporations which come into our country. We do not just let them come in; we plead and beg them to come in, and we subsidize them. Under the new department we are still doing this.

What makes it even more hypocritical is that much of the money foreign corporations invest is our money, Canadian money. This money could be invested in the name of Canadians but we are not doing this today. We must regain the Canadian economy we have lost so that we can properly plan it. We must put the needs of people first, instead of the needs of huge, multinational corporations and instead of saying that the needs of the corporations are the needs of society. Once we regain control of our economy we can start planning to really eliminate regional disparity. First we must regain control of the economy, then plan to eliminate regional poverty and regional disparity.

There are many other matters I could mention, but perhaps I should end by asking the minister a series of questions about why the government is doing some of the things it is doing, and what plan it has for the future. I ask the government why grants to corporations, many of them large corporations, are being made without a firm assurance from the corporations or industries as to their future plans. Why is there not more planning, and why are not more assurances being sought from these industries? Why is there so little emphasis on development in these areas, and why is there so little emphasis on the use of Crown corporations or co-operatives in developing the depressed areas of Canada?

We must find a more effective way to alleviate regional problems than by moving in private industry. Many people feel there is not a real regional plan that is co-ordinated, a plan that knows where it is going. Why do we have a plan which is so ad hoc in nature, so unmanageable and so big that it is rendering itself very ineffective? There is a task to perform. There are problems we will have to solve, and I believe these problems are very acute. If we are to keep Canada together and if

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Canada is to enjoy its 200th birthday, we must solve many of the regional problems which confront us, because if all regions of this country cannot be equal partners in confederation, perhaps the country will not stay together much longer. I suggest it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure that all regions have an equal opportunity and receive equal benefits from confederation.

As the speaker who preceded me said, we must share the advantages of confederation as well as the disadvantages. If we do not do that, let us not sit here in smug complacency and ask why there is a separatist movement in Quebec which is rapidly becoming strong. This movement really started after the election of the Prime Minister and this government to office, a Prime Minister who should have experience and knowledge of the province of Quebec. However, the Prime Minister does not appear to have this knowledge and experience. I do not think we should be sitting here and asking why there is so much discontent, when 20 per cent of our people live in poverty and another 20 per cent live on subsistence wages in a country blessed with affluence, abundance and technological knowledge which could do so much for the average Canadian. The burden rests upon the government, and much could be done through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

It is time we started moving, instead of playing games and dangling carrots before the eyes of foreign firms which really are not interested in developing Canada for its people.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) realizes that what he is requesting of the government is quite similar to that which took place in Saskatchewan, according to a reading of the book of Douglas in Saskatchewan—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. With respect, I think the hon. gentleman's question might be argumentative.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): You had better read from the record instead of that Chamber of Commerce propaganda.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Theogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to make lengthy remarks, but I cannot let the discussion on Bill C-205 come to an end without making a few comments.

The purpose of Bill C-205 is to control unemployment and at the same time to stimulate if possible the economy throughout the country.

I have been expecting this measure for quite a long time. In fact, I made a number of representations in the past in favour of the recognition of the Saint-Hyacinthe area as a designated area. So, I am glad to see that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) has acted according to the announcement of the