

*Export Development Corporation*

to do that we must rationalize our industry and bring about a more effective structure. The difficulty which stands in the way of getting that kind of industrial structure is the pattern of foreign ownership in Canada. The government has consistently refused to tackle this problem. These palliatives are brought in which serve to blot out the real and substantive difficulty in this country.

It is for these reasons among others that I raise these questions concerning the effectiveness of the measure now before us. Looking through the bill one must marvel at some of the naive assumptions. Perhaps I will be excused if I am not completely accurate when I paraphrase. I can be corrected if I am very wrong. The bill provides that agreements can be signed with other countries which will commit those countries to honour these agreements. I wonder how this can be done in this revolutionary world. Some countries are now run by dictators and oppressive leaders. What will the situation be when the people overthrow those leaders? Are we to hold them to a commitment made by a government which they did not approve and sought to overthrow? Surely this sort of thing cannot be done. One could try to do it but it is too unrealistic to expect that a commitment of that kind would be honoured. A very good example is the situation in Peru in respect of the seizure of some of the oil assets in that country.

We are in some ways sowing for ourselves seeds of difficulty with regard to some of the emerging nations. I would hope the government would make it very clear that as our investments in foreign countries grow, particularly in the underdeveloped nations, we will not develop a gunboat mentality and say that because we have investments we must seek to influence the kind of political system the people in those countries choose for themselves. In respect of investments there is always the danger that this kind of attitude might be taken and pressure exerted on the government to protect in this case not only the investments of private people but the government's contribution as well.

When dealing with foreign countries we should also be prepared to get out when they want us to get out and not raise any fuss about it. I believe Canada should take the position that the sovereignty of nations is more important than any private investment whether domestic or foreign. This should be

made very clear, and it does not appear to be clear in the bill as it now stands. We should make sure that we in Canada are not guilty of the same errors regarding extraterritoriality in other countries whereby the laws of another nation have accompanied foreign investment in Canada and have made those investors subject to laws made outside this country. We should ensure and insist that Canadians who invest in other countries will be completely and absolutely subject to the laws of those countries in which they invest so there will be no conflict between private interests and the political sovereignty of the nations in which the investments are made.

• (4:30 p.m.)

We have a chance to show ourselves as sympathetic to the national aspirations of emerging countries. This bill provides a framework in which to do this, but whether it will have this effect will depend to a very large extent on the political direction given to the people in this corporation. It will also depend to a large extent on whether the corporation will simply be turned loose to make as much money as possible or whether we will accept our obligation to see that it acts not only in the best interest of Canada but also in the best interests of those countries which at this time need our help and assistance. It is for that reason that we support the general principle of assistance and urge that the purpose of the corporation be made clearer than was evident from the minister's statement today. We urge the government to accept its moral responsibilities in the establishment of the Export Development Corporation referred to in the bill before us.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I should like to advise the house as to the subjects to be dealt with at the time of adjournment. They are as follows: the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave)—Future of Don Messer t.v. show; the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Reference of Woods Report to Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.