

### Sale of Polymer

interest will be concentrated. This means that there are limits to what the corporation can be expected to accomplish. It should be regarded as only one of the measures to promote greater ownership and control of our economy by Canadians. But I am confident that the role it can play will make a very important contribution to our efforts to deal positively and constructively with these concerns.

The other major purpose set out in the bill is that the corporation should be owned by the Canadian public, with as wide a distribution of the shares as possible. The corporation will be uniquely Canadian with its voting shares held only by Canadian citizens and residents. Through it a new opportunity will be provided for every Canadian to invest in Canadian industry and to share in the profits of such an investment. It is intended that these shares will, when widely held, be listed on Canadian stock exchanges.

The then minister of finance left no doubt about what he envisaged the CDC would do. I should think the party to my left, which made the general charge during the election that there is extreme corporate rip-off, should be aware that this particular transaction is one of the widest rip-offs anyone could imagine. Here we have a \$100-million Crown corporation, owned by the Canadian taxpayers, being sold for \$60 million to the CDC, a corporation that eventually will be owned by numerous Canadian investors, but these will not in any way make up the sum total of the present owners of Polymer, the people of Canada. Surely this is a corporate rip-off of the worst kind. The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), who went about the country complaining about corporate rip-offs, should be appalled at this happening. Hon. members who feel that this sale is not in the best interest of the Canadian public should make their views known by voting for the motion.

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, the most progressive thing I have heard in this House since becoming a member three months ago is the suggestion of the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) that his party might introduce a motion to nationalize the CPR. But if ever they did that, I am sure it would be just to entice us into their bed, because we know they are really after our bodies.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) said that when the bill to set up the CDC was before the House, he did not agree with it. But his party made no amendments on that occasion; they did not propose any amendments to the bill. Is that responsible leadership? He also said that if his party became the government, he would undo the sale of Polymer to the CDC. That differs from what his financial whiz-kids on the backbenches have said, such as the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) who is reported in *Hansard* of last Friday as saying:

I sincerely hope that there will be a trend away from loving crown corporations.

Yes, he would undo the sale of Polymer all right; but he would sell it directly to his corporate friends for even less than the paltry \$62 million that the CDC paid for it. Mr. Speaker, the Tories have the feeling that they are embarrassing the New Democratic Party with this motion. With great finesse, the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) finagled his way into this motion. It is a most irresponsible motion. Talking about irresponsibility, I should like to read from the *Financial Times*. I know it is almost

[Mr. Ritchie.]

a bible to the Tories. This is what it said in an article entitled "Irresponsible":

• (2130)

The Conservatives now may be right to think that they are on the brink of power. But if they are, they should conduct themselves responsibly, as a party ready to take over the management of the country. It is not responsible to formulate confidence motions such as the ones last week—

And may I add, the one tonight.

—which have no obvious purpose but to make the NDP squirm, amusing as that may be.

Short-term cleverness, verbal sophistry and partisan games are not endearing any of the parties to the voters. One-upmanship is not leadership, and leadership is what the country needs.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the country is getting leadership from my party on this side of the House.

**An hon. Member:** See what happens in the next election.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Don't worry; I am looking for the Conservative drive in Nickel Belt, but you cannot even see it. The motion before us tonight is one full of puffed up hypocrisy and is totally meaningless. What would the passage of this motion do? It is closing the barn door after the horse has bolted. That is what these pretenders to power would accomplish if this motion were passed tonight and the government brought down.

For example, in Supplementary Estimates (B) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, this motion, if passed, would deny \$10.4 million to western farmers, including \$1.6 million to farmers in Ontario and Quebec for losses incurred last summer. The farmers should know what the motion will do. For environmental control, \$3.2 million. And the Tories are always talking about environmental control. Here is one for members on the east coast—\$450,000 contribution to Atlantic salmon fishermen who lost their livelihood, and fishermen in general for losses in income. They would not get that if this motion were passed tonight.

The \$4 million for construction of a wharf at Come-By-Chance, Newfoundland, would go down the drain, and the \$14.7 million for the benefit of miners at Devco in Sydney. The hon. member of Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. MacInnis) should explain that. There is \$2.5 million to help discharged inmates of federal penitentiaries who suffered physical disabilities, and \$104.9 million for transportation subsidies to railroad companies. The Tories are always screaming about railroad subsidies. Seven provincial governments, the poor ones, would be denied \$129 million in federal equalization payments.

There is the \$2.5 million to British Columbia as compensation for floods in 1972. They are all in the supplementary estimates. Then there is the \$3.5 million payment to Indians and Eskimos. The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) is always talking about Indians and Eskimos. And \$10.2 million for northern development. There is the \$14 million loan to Canadair Limited to preserve jobs in Montreal. Perhaps the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) should explain that. There is the \$3.9 million payment to western wheat farmers for barley subsidy, and the \$68 million for producers of wheat outside the designated areas. The Privy