

Private Bills

affinity to which the Avco company was directing its investments. This is the answer he gave:

The type of industries that we are in would be aerospace, less than 1 per cent; agricultural equipment, 1 per cent; automation equipment, 2.4 per cent; automotive equipment, 3.4 per cent; banking and trust, 5.3 per cent; beverages, 1.4 per cent; building materials, roughly 1 per cent; chemicals, 1.36 per cent; construction, 1.25 per cent; electronics, 3 per cent; food, both distributors and things of that nature, 6 per cent; investment companies themselves, which would be trust companies and things of that nature, 10 per cent; merchandising, 13.4 per cent; metals and mining, 5.1 per cent; oil and gas, 8.5 per cent; pipe lines, 4.2 per cent; real estate, 6.78 per cent; recreation, 3.3 per cent; secondary manufacturing, 4 per cent; tobacco, 1 per cent; transportation, 1.4 per cent; utilities, 8.3 per cent, and miscellaneous, about 2.4 per cent.

• (5:20 p.m.)

That gives a pretty good idea of the spread of the investment involved. These are the sort of industries that this particular company invests in, and the record is quite impressive both in regard to its horizontal as well as its vertical development in the corporate field.

I should like to put on record the different companies that form part of Avco. In the opening statement of Mr. Alexander the parliamentary agent, appear these words:

I would point out that Delta Acceptance Corporation Limited was incorporated as a public company under the laws of Ontario by letters patent dated March 26, 1954. In July, 1962, Delta Acceptance Corporation acquired the whole of the outstanding share capital of London and Midland General Insurance Company, a company which was incorporated by an act of parliament on July 17, 1947, under the name of the Progressive Insurance Company of Canada and which subsequently changed its name to London and Midland General Insurance Company by an act of parliament on April 12, 1957. Subsequently Delta Acceptance Corporation changed its name to Avco Delta Corporation Canada Limited.

In addition to the London and Midland General Insurance Company the following companies are subsidiaries of Avco Delta Corporation: Avco Delta Corporation Canada Limited; Avco C.F.C. Limited, which was formerly C.F.C. Finance Corporation Limited; Avco Delta Dominion Limited, which was formerly Delta Acceptance Canada Limited; Avco Delta Quebec Limited, which was formerly called D.A.C. (Quebec) Limited; Avco Finance Limited, which was formerly the Crescent Finance Corporation Limited; Avco Highland Plan Limited, which was formerly called Highland Trial Plan Limited; Avco Delta Realty Limited, which was formerly Grand Prairie Investments Limited; Adanac General Insurance Company of Canada; Avco

[Mr. Gilbert.]

Delta Realty, Manitoba, Limited, which was formerly called The North West Mortgage and Finance Company Limited; Consolidated Finance Western Limited; Empire Acceptance Corporation Limited; General Finance Company Limited; Lorne-Bruce Motors Limited, and Waverly Finance Company Limited.

So not only is there an impressive number of subsidiaries of Avco but there is a very wide range of operation which is indicative of the corporate enterprises that are carried on today. This is why the hon. member for Timiskaming raised three preliminary questions in considering this very important bill. The one that I would underline is the question of foreign ownership.

My reason for so doing is the serious concern that was expressed by the "late" Walter Gordon. When I say "late", I mean late in the sense of his being an active member of the Liberal party. Hon. members will recall that Mr. Gordon set up the Watkins commission to make a study of the impact of foreign ownership in Canada. After completing the study Mr. Gordon presented the report to the House of Commons. He prefaced his remarks by saying that he did not necessarily commit the government to the recommendations contained in the report; in other words, he was left alone on the iceberg to withstand the prevailing winds that were blowing at that time.

It is remarkable that during the last week another book was published by a former minister, the former secretary of state, in which she said that Walter Gordon was one of the most progressive and intelligent members that had ever graced the front benches of the Liberal party, that he was a visionary with regard to economic and financial ideas.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I think the last remarks of the hon. member have nothing to do with the bill under study.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing that to my attention; I was rather carried away. I have read excerpts from the book and the commendations of the "late" minister of finance were so impressive that they caught my attention.

If I may relate my remarks directly to the question of foreign ownership and more directly to Avco—as hon. members know the purpose of the bill is to change the name "London and Midland General Insurance Company" to "Avco General Insurance Company"—I was equally impressed by the speech made by the present Secretary of