

which was not specialized, as a manufacturing industry ought to be in a relatively small country like ours.

We were faced in this country, fourth, with the fact that Canada was almost entirely dependent on multi-national corporations for its research and development, the result being that the development in our own country of technology could not take place without reliance on General Electric or General Motors or any of the dozens of large, multi-national corporations that now control this country's economy. We faced these four major problems among many others. They were to do with the foreign ownership of our economy, the unequal development of the economy in Canada, the inefficient branch plant manufacturing industry and the lack of research and development in this country. We therefore faced the economic and, eventually, the political dependence of Canada on countries like the United States and, eventually perhaps, even Japan, those being the countries from which these multi-national corporations came. We are faced at this time in western social history with a new phenomenon, Mr. Speaker, that of the multi-national corporation which straddles the world, which literally straddles the globe and which has developed new techniques.

The multi-national corporation does not use methods as crude as were used by the old style imperialism, under which you took over a country physically and militarily. They take over a country now in a much more efficient and refined way. They do not bother taking over a nation physically; they merely take over the means by which the nation lives, knowing perfectly well that if you take over the means by which a nation lives you exercise effective control over the life of that nation. This is what the multi-national corporation means in the 1970's as it meant in the 1960's. It is a dangerous thing for the fate of freedom and the world.

• (2:30 p.m.)

I recently visited the city of Helsinki, Finland, where I attended the conference of the Council of the Socialist International, in which the NDP is represented. One major matter concerned the leaders present, including the chancellor of Germany, the chancellor of Austria, the prime minister of Sweden, the prime minister of Norway, the prime minister of Israel and men and women who were either in government, had just been in government or expected to be in government in a very short time. The major concern of these men and women from Europe, Asia and Africa was the evil result of increasing control of the world economy by multi-national corporations, centred mainly in the United States, but also centred in Japan, West Germany and in other highly developed industrial countries.

Canada, which is right beside the powerful United States of America and whose economy is to a large extent controlled by that economic giant, has a very serious problem to overcome. It must reduce and, if possible, eliminate or at least control foreign ownership and foreign domination of the economy of this country. This was one of the major purposes we saw in the Canada Development Corporation. We believe very

Canada Development Corporation

strongly that the time is very short for Canada to become independent economically and, therefore, fully independent politically. No Canadian, regardless of what party he belongs to, can help but be seriously distressed at the attitude of this government and the ministers of this government if his mind, eyes and ears are open.

It is sometimes said that the Americans have taken over Canada. I have stated across this country and I want it on record in *Hansard* that I do not blame the Americans. For a century, Canadian business and political leaders have gone to the United States and begged the Americans to come into Canada and take over our resources. They pleaded with them to come and build manufacturing plants in our country. They told them, with that lack of self-respect and self-reliance which is typical of the continentalists and disastrous for this country, that we not only want and need them, but they are indispensable to us. This is what was said to the Americans. Because the governments of this country were not willing to make profits for the Canadian people, nor did the business men in this country have that objective, we were taken over in very large measure.

We said in 1961, and we have stated ever since, that there is only one way of making certain that we gain more control of the economic destiny of this country; that is to set up a mammoth, massive development fund under the control and management of government and Parliament. The funds would come from the undistributed profits and retained earnings of all financial and other large corporations in this country. By law, they would be required to invest a large proportion of their undistributed profits, retained earnings and reserves in this Canadian development entity for the development of this country. Instead government has produced this puny bill which we are now discussing and which is a distortion of a good idea. It has produced this abortion after seven years of gestation. I remind hon. members that Walter Gordon promised us the Canada Development Corporation in 1963. After seven years, this government has produced this stillborn, meaningless, mindless kind of legislation that has no place in our society, cannot accomplish anything.

What is it expected to do? It is to be a private corporation, not a Crown corporation or a public corporation. It is to have exactly the same objectives as any other private enterprise, namely making of profits. This will be its major consideration and motivation. It is to have exactly the same objective as every other private corporation in Canada with respect to a return to its shareholders. Only 7 per cent of Canadians have any money to invest in a corporation. The other 93 per cent are not investors. This is another bill which serves the interests of the private corporation and the interests of, at most, 7 per cent of Canadians who have enough money to make an investment.

What is the purpose of this bill? It is not going to repatriate any part of our economy. It is not going to deal with investment in the undeveloped parts of this country. It will not deal with rationalizing, specializing of manufacturing industries so that we can become a much great-