

to answer any questions at all which may be addressed to him.

Just before one o'clock we had the pleasure of listening to the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight) making one of those typical enthusiastic tub-thumping socialist speeches which he does very well with great resourcefulness and ingenuity. It was, of course, a replay of what we have been hearing from the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) with nauseating frequency for the last year or so, but at least it showed that his research department is able to produce the same names and the same figures.

To some extent I agree with the hon. member. There is a problem created in this country and in other countries by the in-breeding, the economic intermingling, of people in a certain walk of life, in a certain economic position, who have been elected to the boards of companies as the hon. member noted. I can say I do not regard this development with any pleasure, but while I agree with the hon. member to a limited extent, I would dislike even more what we would see under a socialist government—a particularly large complement of over-academic, over-educated, under-knowledgeable academics of a pink tinge in the form of bureaucrats who would proliferate on the hundreds and hundreds of boards which a socialist government would create to run the affairs of this country to such an extent that in due course you and I, Mr. Speaker, would require a private briefing before we would be allowed to go to the bathroom.

Mr. Baker: An order of the Privy Council.

Mr. Baldwin: We would need an order in council before we could make a motion in chambers.

The reasonably good case the hon. member for Assiniboia made is diminished by one significant fact. I should like to take hon. members back to the proceedings of the House last session. Hon. members then displayed the same intellectual and political dishonesty and fraud they have practised in this House since the last election. They talk to the left and they vote with the government. They say one thing and do another. At that time we were dealing indirectly with the question of combines. The government had seen fit, when it was confronted with a situation it was unable to handle, to act in its normal way. As in any situation in which this government gets involved, it panicked as a result of that confrontation. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) panicked, as did the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald), and with incorrect statistics and wrong information they rushed into parliament and ultimately obtained the passage of a bill referred to as the allocations bill. Included in that bill were several clauses which provided that the severity of the combines legislation would be modified. In certain eventualities, the restrictive trade practices regulations would be inapplicable, and under a certain set of circumstances, they would be diminished entirely at the whim of the government.

● (1410)

I felt, as did the leader of this party and my colleagues, with that regard for the rights of the ordinary individual which has always prompted us in the positions we take inside and outside this House, that this was wrong; it was

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unjustified and unwarranted. There is no shadow of a doubt that it was the multinational corporations, and the evidence taken before the committee discloses this fact, who insisted on the energy allocations bill. Many of the provisions in it were brought forward at the assistance of the technical advisory committee which was dominated by people from multinational corporations. They were the ones who wanted this diminishing effect and, in some cases, the almost complete abolition, of parts of the combines legislation.

We did not believe this was necessary, and we proposed an amendment at the report stage which gave hon. members of this House, and I stress the word "honourable", the opportunity to agree with us that it was improper that large corporations should be entitled to evade the provisions of combines legislation. As might be expected, the government, which is very friendly with those corporations, went along with the corporations and opposed the amendment. I had thought that my friends to the left, the members of the NDP, whose principles I knew were dragging on the ground at that time, would at least recover sufficiently to vote with us and stop this monstrosity being perpetrated on the people of Canada.

An hon. Member: You are not half as sweet as your honey.

Mr. Baldwin: What did happen? Those hon. members pocketed their principles. They crept, they slid and they slithered into a position of reliance on our friends opposite in the government and voted against us. Now, they have the unmitigated gall and temerity to come into this House and, through their spokesmen, particularly the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight), who was speaking before lunch, and say they do not like these multinational corporations or the prospect that exists for this form of intellectual economic inbreeding. They say it is wrong and they say unctuously they are going to oppose this, even after giving us these figures and the names. I suggest that is fraud and hypocrisy. I would ask to what depths has this great national party fallen? I know it is no longer a new party, but ancient and probably one of the oldest in the country now. Perhaps we can forgive their sins of indiscretion on the grounds of the age of the party itself. However, I am certainly shocked and find it difficult to reconcile the stand of the New Democratic Party of that time with the speech the hon. member for Assiniboia made this morning.

I see my hon. friend, the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) looking at me. I do not know whether it is with admiration or what, but I do find it difficult to make that reconciliation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member would permit me to satisfy his curiosity. I am looking at him with compassion as he must not be feeling well.

Mr. Baldwin: I thank the hon. member.

An hon. Member: You should eat some of that honey you sent around.