

Supply

I have no hesitation in admitting this because this is a public document. All 282 Members of Parliament received it, or rather, as there are two vacant seats, all 280 Members of Parliament have indeed received these criteria and all the Members, whether they are from Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Quebec or Ontario, are in possession of the same document dated February 2, 1984.

[English]

Mr. Hawkes: Do I understand correctly that there were no additional criteria, that the ones written down were the only criteria used in the allocation?

Mr. Dubois: Mr. Speaker, I am very positive concerning that. The answer is yes. Maybe it would be better if I spoke in English. The answer to this question and to the previous one is yes.

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to participate in a debate on a motion of the New Democratic Party—these great social planners, these great central planners, these great planners of an industrial strategy designed to guarantee and deliver social justice, equity, fairness and equality to everyone! It is almost as if the NDP has not yet discovered that for the last 15 years we have suffered misery from the results and consequences of that kind of planning. The motion is designed to point out certain inequities which may exist in the treatment of earned income of large corporations and in terms of the concessions and loopholes that might exist which permit large corporations to be in a privileged tax position.

That is all very interesting, but while it may be true that we have an over-concentrated large corporate sector, it is nothing else, in my opinion at least, than a result of and a reaction to central planning and concentration of power in a central place by Government. Companies have been made instruments of national policy. In order to carry out the social role assigned to large corporate entities, they have to grow in size.

Of course it is true that our large corporate sector derived its strength and size from the fact that we are an exporting nation, that we are rich in resources and that our prime resource industries require large corporate entities to harvest and produce the products resource industries are capable of producing and to ship them world-wide in an effective way. It is our history and our nature to have large corporations. However, in recent years, as a result of the central planning of the present Government, there has been the emergence of certain corporate entities which no longer bear any resemblance to free enterprise. That is not by their choice, it is by the choice of this Government which has made them instruments of social policy.

Let me explain what I mean when I say that we have assigned to our corporations and our businesses an inordinate amount of social responsibility. I see the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) in the House. He will remember the story about a mine in his riding which took 15 years to plan and when it was finished the capital involved in bringing the mine

into production was massive; 35 per cent of it had absolutely nothing to do with the mine itself but concerned the building of a town, a swimming pool, a school and all social amenities which go along with a town. The Government assigned that responsibility to the company. At the same time it made it very difficult for that particular company—or any other company, resource venture or business—to raise the necessary capital to bring the venture onstream. Through FIRA and policies of economic nationalism, which are supported by the NDP, it was and is exceedingly difficult for companies to raise the necessary capital to bring such ventures onstream, particularly since it takes 15 years, 20 years or even longer from the inception of the scheme until it comes to fruition. Again that is because of the over-extended regulatory process and the unco-ordinated regulatory process, not only in terms of the different Departments of the federal Government but in terms of the other legitimate players in the scheme—the provincial governments, municipal governments and so on.

Canada is no longer a very hospitable or good place in which to plan or to invest. This is why our mining industry, for instance, operates at 50 per cent capacity and our forest industry—the goose which lays the golden egg—operates at something like 60 per cent capacity. That is why, in an attempt to compete with new players in international marketplaces, we have seen over the last 50 years a total change in the nature of our market economy. It is no longer a free market economy. Companies which are not already nationalized or taken over by government are nothing but instruments of social policy. For instance, when a mine shuts down in the Yukon and people are laid off, it might be given a \$30 million grant to keep operating. We are totally unconcerned or ignorant of the fact that that might create distortions in the marketplace. Here is one company that now has \$30 million to produce its product, \$30 million on which it does not have to pay interest or even repay. Naturally that creates certain distortions in terms of the balance sheets. It creates problems in terms of the investment decisions that other companies or investors may make.

● (1620)

How did this come about? What is it that got us into this serious situation, and it is serious? I commend the New Democratic Party for bringing to the attention of the House the fact that we have massive unemployment and the fact that businesses and corporations have not had the means to respond to the challenge by expanding their productive capacity. We are no longer competitive. Our companies are now suffering from having become partners in a centrally planned economy, permitting government to insert itself and stand between them and the pressures of the market, taking risk out of enterprise. We are now suffering the consequences.

Some of that has to do with the fact that our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has had an obsession to proceed in this fashion. We have pretended to be partners, major players in the industrial scheme of the western world, the OECD countries. We are totally ignorant of the fact that we are not like other industrial countries in the western world. We are not like