

*Interim Supply*

receives subsidies under an act of this parliament and has on its board of directors an appointee of the ministers as the full-time head of a crown corporation.

I submit, Mr. Chairman, that this is impropriety at its height, and that the Minister of Trade and Commerce should make up his mind as to which of these courses he is going to pursue. I submit that he should either resign as executor of the Dunn estate or that he should resign his position as a minister of the crown.

Reports of this matter have made it clear that if this sale goes through, A. V. Roe Canada Limited—which is on the receiving end of government contracts which including this and the last several fiscal years will approach \$1 billion—it will make of this firm one of the largest corporations in Canada. In fact I could go even further afield. I am interested, for example, in the statement made in yesterday's *Toronto Telegram* which reads as follows:

Addition of the mining and steel holdings of Algoma to the rapidly-growing Canadian Avro group makes it one of a handful of organizations in the world whose activities embrace the full gamut of production from ore to a wide variety of end products.

Products of Avro's six operating companies here include military aircraft, jet engines, buses, railway rolling stock and equipment, precision forgings, steel castings, electro-mechanical instruments including computers.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Trade and Commerce in his capacity as a minister responsible to parliament awards contracts and takes steps that help to build up a company of this nature, we cannot do other than object to it on the floor of the house as a matter of policy. However, so long as he is a minister of the crown and is able to get the vote of a majority of the House of Commons, he can do things like this in pursuit of his position as one who is making government policy.

In this instance this same minister in a separate capacity, by being involved in this transfer is helping, not as a minister but as a private citizen, to increase the size, the power and the strength of a particular private corporation. It is not just a case of two corner stores combining into a little larger corner store; it is a case of building an industry and making an empire which has a bearing on the economy of the country as a whole.

The face of the Canadian economy changes when we get a group consisting mainly of these two companies, Avro Canadian and McIntyre-Porcupine Limited, obtaining in addition to all they now own a controlling interest in an outfit like Algoma Steel; and I submit that though we may protest at entrepreneurs and industrialists outside of the

House of Commons doing this kind of thing, that is all we can do—protest about it. However, it is my submission that it is quite improper for the Minister of Trade and Commerce in his position as minister to do things that will help to build up a huge company and then, on the side in his capacity as a private citizen and as executor of a huge estate, add to that enlargement of the powers and functions of a particular company such as this Avro Canadian firm.

I am also interested in the fact that the Algoma Steel company is owned in part by some other interests which hold shares in that company, and this leads to some very interesting connections which I think should be run down. I find, for example, that the M. A. Hanna Company of the United States, which has extensive holdings in various Canadian properties, owns 69,500 shares of Algoma Steel. I have also noticed in a press clipping I have before me that Senator Neely of West Virginia has been questioning at Washington the holdings of secretary of the treasury Humphrey in this M. A. Hanna company which, in turn, has these holdings in Algoma Steel.

It builds up, if I may use a slang expression, to a terrific can of worms which it seems to me should be thoroughly investigated. We should know the whole story involved and what is going on in these transactions, which are bigger than what is done by parliament itself; yet parliament is supposed to be the supreme body in this country, having the say as to the nature of our economy so far as it affects our people. Because of this whole situation, it seems to me the Minister of Trade and Commerce should take one or other of the courses I have suggested; he should either get as far away as he can from the negotiations between Algoma Steel and these other two companies—and that means resigning his position as an executor of the Dunn estate—or if he prefers to stay in that end of the business he should get out of the cabinet and away from the particular position he has as a minister of the crown.

I say to the Prime Minister that this whole business is too important to be left in this uncertain state at the end of the session. As a matter of fact, although I know the suggestion I am going to make will receive short shrift, I think it is important enough that the closing of this session of parliament should be delayed until a committee can be set up or until the matter can be referred to one of our standing committees to investigate all its aspects.

I know the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Prime Minister do not like our going a step further and asking the