

*Canada Development Corporation*

leford-Meadow Lake sits in the front bench down there in the "rump", and that is about the place where John Diefenbaker used to sit in this House. Mr. Diefenbaker used to make speech after speech about the Government of the day showing disrespect for Parliament in doing things before it introduced legislation in the House, about the executive having too much power and the Prime Minister's Office having too much power. He used to make speech after speech about the Government's disrespect for this institution and, of course, this institution represents the people of Canada and, therefore, the Government was showing disrespect for the people of Canada by doing things without consulting Parliament. But what is happening with this legislation, Mr. Speaker? If I understand it correctly—and please correct me if I am wrong—these shares have now been offered in the market without this Bill being passed by the House of Commons, and without this Bill even being discussed in the House of Commons. The Government has done this without having the Bill go through the legislative committee of the House of Commons where it may be changed or amended because some of the Conservative Members of Parliament may agree with the Opposition on certain points and amend this particular legislation.

**Mr. Lewis:** Never.

**Mr. Nystrom:** An Hon. Member of Parliament says "never". I believe that the Government has shown disrespect for this institution, for this Parliament, in offering to sell the shares of the CDC on the market, starting the whole process, and then coming to Parliament with a Bill. I see my friend, the Hon. Member from Ontario, sitting opposite. I am sure that if he were in the Opposition and this were being done by a Liberal Government, he would be standing here ranting and raving that we live in a parliamentary democracy and the executive in the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet should not prejudice what Parliament wants to do.

The honeymoon period is over. The election took place over a year ago now. If the Conservative Members of Parliament are going to make any changes now in terms of democratizing this institution, of making their Prime Minister more sensitive to what they want as individual Members, this is the year it will have to happen. They will need to have the guts and the courage to say, "Mr. Prime Minister, don't push us around. We are all equals in this House". Just because the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion says jump, Conservative back-benchers should not ask how high. Just because the Prime Minister says jump, they should not ask how high. They should stand up and be counted. They should speak their minds and say to the Government that it should not prejudice this institution. It should not show that kind of disrespect for the people of Canada but should indeed consult Parliament. If the Government brings a Bill before Parliament and the Bill is passed, then, fine, we can disagree with it, we can complain, but at least the proper method will have been used and respect shown to the Canadian people. I can see many Conservative Members of Parliament restless in their seats, wanting to rise to speak their minds.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nystrom:** In fact, I see the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake sitting there. He is leaning towards the front just as John Diefenbaker used to lean. But those Hon. Members are afraid, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister is everywhere. It is just like the book 1984. He is Big Brother. Those Conservative Members of Parliament may not get a Cabinet post, they may not become a Parliamentary Secretary and they may not receive things for their ridings if they speak their minds, but I appeal to them to have the courage of their convictions and tell the Prime Minister and the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion that they should respect Parliament and the parliamentary tradition.

Perhaps my last word on that point is that if those Members of Parliament want any argument to prove what I have been saying, they should take a look at speech after speech made by Members of their Party when they were in opposition for many years. They should look up the speeches of John Diefenbaker, Ged Baldwin, Robert Stanfield, Joe Clark, Walter Baker and many other distinguished leaders of the Conservative Party. These speeches were all about how important it is to respect the parliamentary tradition and procedures and how the Conservative Party would never, if in office, do like Pierre Trudeau and prejudice what Parliament has to say. A Conservative Government would involve its back-benchers and make sure they were consulted rather than come to Parliament with a Bill which is a *fait accompli*.

I appeal on those two points to my friends in the Conservative Party and ask them to show a little courage and rise and tell the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion where to get off.

• (1250)

We have a lot of problems in this country, Mr. Speaker. I come from a part of the country where there is a tremendous drought. We need action on things like assistance to farmers to make sure they get the income they need to stay on the farm. We do not need to bail out the big banks in this country. We have sitting across the way, "billion dollar Barbara".

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Garneau:** Billion dollar woman.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Billion dollar woman. That is the kind of thing that is going to happen more and more often if members of the Conservative Party do not get up and speak their minds.

The CDC has had a pretty positive record. It has done a number of things to make Canada a much better country. The company's assets are fairly strong and it has made a fair profit in a number of areas over the years. I say that we should not be selling this successful Crown corporation. It is a move which reflects the Minister's ideology. We know what that is; more free trade with the U.S., greater corporate concentration here in Canada, greater foreign ownership. But I do not think that is the direction in which the Canadian people want to go. I think Canadians want more local initiatives, more self-reli-