

Export Development Act

they always said was there are 200,000 jobs created or maintained". Not 200,000 new jobs, 200,000 created or maintained. He whacked in a few weasel words because he knew he could not support the 200,000 jobs. They said that they used to say "about", that they never claimed 200,000. This is the defence you will find in the evidence of our committee because we say we have no way of showing they created 200,000 jobs. So then their defence was, "Well, what we say is about 200,000".

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand here a document which gives the lie to that statement in the committee. Here is an advertisement that appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* on Thursday, June 8, 1978: "Exporting . . . it's jobs for people like you and me". Down in the second paragraph it says:

Last year EDC financial support for Canadian export sales totalled \$2.6 billion, which sustained or created work for at least 200,000 Canadians across the nation.

There is no "about" there. There is no shilly-shallying. They sustained and created work for at least 200,000, not about 200,000 or approximately 200,000. "For at least"—in other words, more than 200,000.

The hon. member for Vancouver Quadra, who is a chartered accountant, I believe, among his many other accomplishments, inveigled the president, Mr. MacDonald, to give us a document to show how they arrived at their calculation of jobs. Well, it wasn't jobs anyway, Mr. Speaker, it was man-years. It was 200,000 man-years they were talking about. Two hundred thousand man-years is not jobs. A job might last six months or 12 months and the man may be out of work again, but man-years is a different concept. It is like the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) who got up in the famous conference, the first ministers' con job conference, in February, and he said, "There is going to be one million jobs created in big energy projects". Eighty billion dollars, and there has not been one job created yet. He wasn't talking about jobs either. He was talking about man-years. He was talking about con jobs. Those are the kinds of jobs these people are talking about, con jobs. There are about 200,000 con jobs created by their advertising each year.

So they were asked to put in their calculations and show how they arrived at it. And, Mr. Speaker, it was laughable. It was tragic in the committee, the piffling nonsense that went as an exhibit to the committee to show how they arrived at the 200,000 jobs. I am going to leave the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra to deal with that in his bright, no-nonsense, chartered accountant manner that will show there is nothing like 200,000. That is a pure work of fiction. It is completely fictional, this 200,000 that is being advertised all across Canada. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) would not have to worry about his department. He could close his department down if EDC were being truthful and correct. There would be 200,000 new jobs every year. He could shut her down, and we would save billions on the unemployment.

In issue 36, just to give you my evidence, at page 22 there is some discussion of the whole business here, and as the hon.

[Mr. Crosbie.]

member for Vancouver Quadra pointed out, there was no method of arriving at the figure. Mr. MacDonald said:

—the breakdown, as I think that memorandum endeavours to explain, is the utilization of rules of thumb—

Perhaps it was 200,000 thumbs it was talking about, not 200,000 jobs. Have you ever heard such foolish baffle-gab in your life, Mr. Speaker? I will just read it again:

Mr. Clarke, the breakdown, as I think that memorandum endeavours to explain, is the utilization of rules of thumb, which are reasonably widely accepted, based on the work-generative effect of a million dollars of expenditure per industry.

Pure and simple Ottawa baffle-gab, but we are not fooled by baffle-gab, Mr. Speaker. We can see that that is meaningless nonsense and that they have no way of showing. Then he went on further down to say:

That is why we use the expression "about". I do not think we purport it to be a statistical head count; we said about 200,000.

In other words, it is pure fiction. Edgar Rice Burroughs, when he was thinking of Tarzan swinging through the trees, could just as easily have thought up this kind of baffle-gab "about 200,000". It was about 200,000 times Tarzan swung through the trees. "A statistical head count" of the minds. Did you ever hear anything like that, "rules of thumb"?

"Utilization of rules of thumb". Any time anybody tries to trap me into an answer when I don't know what I am talking about, I am going to get up and say, "Gentlemen, really we have to depend on rules of thumb here, and the statistical rules of thumb show that this, that and the other is correct". This man should be in politics, Mr. Speaker. It is easy to see where he is going when he leaves the Export Development Corporation. So that is the number of jobs created. One hundred seventy seven thousand dollars was spent this year on false and misleading advertising across Canada by this Crown corporation. It is a wonder we are not so nauseated that we are going to vote against this bill at third reading. I am hoping that the ministers here today will persuade their colleague to accept our amendment so that we can be sure this corporation will be back before our committee again before three and a half to five years is up so we can keep a check on them. We need a tight check rein kept on them.

We had heard that the Canadian Bankers' Association had written the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) with a copy to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, making a submission as to how things might be changed with respect to EDC. We had understood that it contained some criticism and some suggestions for change, so we asked, "Can we see the submission?" Here was a committee of your House, Mr. Speaker, considering this bill, so we asked, "Could we see the submission from the Canadian Bankers' Association?" Well, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce hopped from toe to toe and foot to foot and heel to heel, he hemmed and he hawed and he hoed, and he said he would take it under consideration. Two weeks later he took it under further consideration, and two weeks later he took it under more consideration, and he was worried what the Canadian Bankers' Association would think about it. Then he was worried what the