

Foreign Control of Canadian Industries

industry. Yet people are now bleating about United States companies dominating our oil industry. I suppose it would be very nice if Canadians dominated it, but Canadians did not trouble themselves about it and took no notice of it. So, western Canadians feel that the origin of development capital is a secondary consideration and that what is important is that money should be available to develop this country.

I wish to make one other observation. I think the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) demonstrated the dilemma in which his party is. It wants to be the farmer's friend; it also wishes other countries to buy our farm products. Yet, when another country develops its industry to the point of being able to sell its products—as it must if it is to buy our farm products—to our farmers at prices lower than those charged for similar Canadian products, that party cries the blues and shows an inconsistent attitude.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Osler: The Canadian farmer is not the least bit interested in protecting eastern Canadian industries. He would sooner buy his finished product from Japan if that product is just as good as any available here, and cheaper.

Mr. Peters: And rightly so.

Mr. Osler: The hon. member says, and rightly so. I point out, however, that he cannot wear both hats at the same time.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Osler: Not just now, please. I have such a short time. It seems to me that those who have been crying gloom and doom have overstated the case greatly. Hon. Walter Gordon is the prophet of gloom and the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) is uttering lamentations. I nevertheless suggest, as several other hon. members have suggested, that the government ought to look long and hard at the Watkins Report and consider some sensible and balanced way in which to approach this entire problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being six o'clock the sitting of this house is suspended until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

[Mr. Osler.]

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): In view of the fact this is a motion which will not involve a vote, I can express a greater variety of views than might otherwise be the case. Certainly, international capital has made a considerable impact on the Canadian economy. The motion as put, at least the first part of it, is fairly straightforward. Indeed, the situation set forth in the first part of the motion is almost indisputable.

The present government has not taken any action to prevent foreign companies from investing in Canada's resources, development and other aspects of the economy, nor has it taken any preventive measures for the future. It is not clear to me, or I am sure to the public, whether this government is even giving consideration to the economic and other issues which are involved here. If the government were considering these matters in a well balanced way, we would not need to be as concerned about this subject as the present motion indicates. It is by no means clear why the government should act to prevent some of the things to which our friends to my left are objecting. This is not a simple black and white issue. We are talking about welcoming foreign investment while still maintaining firm political control.

I was in this chamber on Tuesday and Wednesday when I should have been in the city of Grande Prairie where a crowd of some 10,000 welcomed the completion of the Alberta Resources Railway running from the C.N.R. west of Edmonton near Brule along the eastern slope of the foothills of the Rockies to the city of Grande Prairie. This railway not only opens up a new hinterland of resources to development, but also gives incidental and ancillary benefits to the people of the Peace River area as well as the Northwest Territories by providing a more direct route to the Pacific coast. If we had waited for Canadian capital to open up that part of the country we probably would have had to wait until hell froze over, if our past experience is any indication.

There are a number of resources in that area such as coke and coal from the Little Smoky River district; at least one or possibly two pulp mills and a gas processing plant. These are the bread and butter reasons for the existence of this particular railway, which was built by the C.N.R. at the instance of and for the Alberta government. However, foreign