

*Canada Development Corporation*

posed by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), are quite agreeable to us. In other words, there will be seven different proposals, seven different debates and perhaps seven different votes. The only comment I would like to add is that in those cases where Your Honour said if there was a negative vote it would take care of other motions, I suppose it follows that if there is an affirmative vote in some of these cases then we will reassess the situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's suggestion is hypothetical, but it would be considered if there were an affirmative vote. I note the hon. member's suggestion that a negative vote indicating that certain matters would be done is equally hypothetical. I had in the back of my mind that perhaps one was just a little more hypothetical than the other.

**Mr. Mahoney:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the suggestion of the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) that Nos. 9 and 10 be separated. However, it seems to me that amendment No. 9 is consistent with Nos. 1 and 2 in that it is basically directed at making the Canada Development Corporation a Crown corporation and taking it out of the private sector. Some consideration could properly be given to including motion No. 9 with Nos. 1 and 2.

**Mr. Speaker:** That might be complicated. I suggest to hon. members that if we try to change this grouping too much we will be here for two days trying to make new groupings and new regroupings. I am not suggesting that the proposal made by the hon. parliamentary secretary is not logical, but in view of the fact that the suggestion has been made now that Nos. 1 and 2 be considered together and that we are prepared to proceed with them, I suggest we do this unless there is unanimous agreement that No. 9 be taken with Nos. 1 and 2.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is obviously no such agreement. I would hope that hon. members would agree with the suggestions made by the Chair at this time. We will now call motions Nos. 1 and 2.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** I move:

That Bill C-219, an act to establish the Canada Development Corporation, be amended by deleting from clause 2 all the words following "corporations" in lines 9 to 12 on page 1.

That Bill C-219, an act to establish the Canada Development Corporation, be amended by deleting from clause 4 the words "together with such persons as are shareholders of the company from time to time" in lines 34 to 36 on page 2.

In proposing motion No. 1, I should like to point out that as the clause now stands it is misleading and perhaps unintentionally dishonest, but nevertheless dishonest, by virtue of the language used. Line 11 indicates that the establishment of a corporation will provide "greater opportunities to invest and participate in the economic development of Canada". We have to realize that in some ways this corporation will provide less opportunity rather

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

than greater opportunity. One of the proposals in this legislation is that more wholly owned Crown corporations and one partially owned Crown corporation be put into the hopper, which means in fact that the four corporations now owned by all Canadians are going to be put into one corporation that will be owned only by some Canadians. This seems a very regressive step, so it seems to be enormously misleading and dishonest to say we are providing opportunities to invest and participate in the economic development of Canada.

The greatest opportunity to invest and participate in the economic development of Canada is provided by doing what we have done in the past, by establishing wholly owned Crown corporations in which every Canadian can participate. To take away these Crown corporations that have been built up for good reasons over a number of years and to turn them over to a limited number of stockholders, is to sell out the interests of the vast majority of the Canadian public.

• (12:10 p.m.)

In September, 1968, a study was carried out by Professor G. R. Conway, of the faculty of administrative studies of York University, Toronto. It was commissioned by the Toronto Stock Exchange and called, "The supply of and demand for Canadian equities". The study comes to a number of conclusions and gives some interesting facts. I should like to read briefly from page 8. There is a reference to the number of Canadians owning shares. Right now, every Canadian is a shareholder in a Crown corporation but not every Canadian will be a shareholder in CDC, considering the provisions under which that corporation is being incorporated. It is interesting to discover who the new shareholders will be and what percentage of Canadians they will represent. We may gain some insight into this by examining the number of Canadians who now own shares and the number of Canadians who are in a position to own shares.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker. Most Canadians would like to own shares. If you ask any Canadian whether he would like to own shares he would say, "Of course, I should like to own shares in a company." To buy shares in a company you need surplus purchasing power, and that surplus purchasing power is not available to all Canadians, especially since almost a quarter of our population is living at or below the poverty level. When we talk about opportunities for buying shares, we are talking about a very limited portion of the Canadian population. The report I am about to refer to mentions that limited portion. May I now quote from the report, under the heading, "Number of Canadians Owning Shares":

The proportion of Canadian taxpayers receiving dividends has been increasing, from 5.3% in 1955 to over 7% in 1965—up about 30%. This increase is relatively more significant than it appears as 13% more of the population filed tax returns in 1965 than in 1955. In the United States the percentage of taxpayers receiving dividends in 1965 was 17%, reflecting the higher average incomes in that country.

If it can be assumed that tax returns filed are a reasonable indication of the proportion of the population over age 21 that receive dividends, then the proportion of all Canadians receiving dividends has increased from 2.7% in 1955 to 4.2% in 1964—an increase of about 55%. Projecting the figures to 1965 would