

*Competition Tribunal Act*

takes place, then somehow everything will be just fine. As democratic socialists, we remind Canadians that in the pursuit of profit through corporate greed, many other human values are twisted, eroded and destroyed.

What results from the pursuit of global maximization of profit? First, because the costs of production are driven down, we see destruction of the environment, pollution, destruction of our beautiful lakes and rivers and destruction of clean air. It costs money to properly protect and nurture our precious environment. If a corporation is trying to drive down the costs of production and externalize those costs, it will pollute and destroy the environment.

We know that in an attempt to maximize profit, working men and women have their health and safety threatened. Of course, it costs money to make sure that the workplace is safe and healthy. In the corporate drive for profit we see regional disparities and inequities resulting. The levels of unemployment in some parts of the country, including the Maritime provinces, rural Quebec and British Columbia are tremendously high.

We see the results of the pursuit of corporate greed in the production of shabby and unsafe goods. Of course, it costs a little more money to produce quality goods. If a corporation wants to maximize, then the bottom line is that it does not care about effective, safe and non-hazardous consumer goods. It builds in the costs of a few deaths, as did the manufacturers of the Pinto, knowing full well that that car would explode and result in a few deaths. That is the corporate greed which we in this Party reject.

Corporate greed means that there is advertising to promote a demand which in many cases is ineffective. It means that the corporate sector will be fighting tooth and nail against effective affirmative action to ensure that the hiring of the disabled, women, visible minorities and native people is promoted. As we know, that is action which the corporate sector has vigorously rejected.

While we recognize that we should be holding the Government accountable to its own rhetoric about competition, free enterprise and letting the market rule, we in this Party believe in a very fundamental alternative. We believe that the economy should be organized, not to squeeze as much profit as possible out of it for a few faceless shareholders in some corporate board room in another part of the world, but to serve the needs of Canadians and to ensure that global inequities in the distribution of wealth and power are eliminated. We believe that an economy should be organized in such a way as to ensure that the overriding goal of full employment, a job for each and every Canadian who wants one is met. We believe that there are many ways of achieving this other than using corporate cutthroat greed and competition.

In the short time available to me I will not have an opportunity to elaborate to any great length on some of those alternatives. However, surely we should be looking far more seriously at an important and significant role for the co-operative sector

to play in society. We must look at an important role for local communities to play. Local communities should be able to make decisions about their own economic priorities.

I see that my colleague, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) is present in the House. He very ably chaired a task force on unemployment and job creation. One of the things we on that task force heard over and over again was that smaller communities wanted to make their own decisions about their economic priorities, rather than seeing more and more mergers and acquisitions which contribute not one new job, but merely line the pockets of a few corporate shareholders.

We in this Party say that this legislation is fundamentally flawed. As my colleague, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), has pointed out so eloquently in his remarks, many of the objective commentators have pointed to the weakness of this legislation and to the fact that it has been systematically eroded over the passage of time. We know that effective provisions for class actions, for example, which are so important for consumers, are totally lacking in this legislation. We know that effective provisions to deal with predatory pricing are absent from this legislation.

We look forward to an extensive study of this legislation in committee in order to ensure that, to the extent that it is possible to improve this badly flawed legislation, it will be improved.

• (1230)

Surely the bottom line is that we as a country must recognize that the way to organize the economy is not to try to squeeze as much profit as possible out of the country, but to serve human needs and human values.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The question is the following one. Mr. Côté (Langelier), seconded by Mr. Hnatyshyn, moves that Bill C-91, an Act to establish the Competition Tribunal and to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Bank Act and other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those in favour of the motion please say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those opposed please say nay.