

*Excelsior Life Insurance Co.*

this matter should emanate from the government. Because this is a one-man government, we must look to the Prime Minister, who so far has been silent on the matter of foreign ownership and control of Canadian industry, silent on the matter of foreign ownership and control of Excelsior Life Insurance Company, and all the other insurance company bills that are before us.

**Mr. Gibson:** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Yes; I have sufficient time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might be given an opportunity to ask the question from his seat.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** While he is doing that—

**Mr. Speaker:** In the meantime the hon. member might go on with the preamble.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Gibson:** Mr. Speaker, as company law is both federal and provincial, does the hon. member not think he has been most unfair in his criticism of the Prime Minister? He is trying to develop answers to the problems, prior to the federal-provincial conference, where all these things are discussed in the context of a federal-provincial atmosphere of distribution of powers?

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, if I were to be permitted to answer that question I obviously would be out of order. But I would point out to the hon. member that this is another indication of the attitude, not only of the government but obviously of the whole Liberal party, namely: Wait until tomorrow; wait until another day; let us see what occurs.

As far as I am concerned, the Prime Minister, because he is the leader of the government, in respect of foreign ownership of Canadian industry, is as phony as a \$4 bill, and everyone who supports him in that concept of waiting until some other time to do something about it falls within the same class. It would not surprise me at a bit, and I understand this is the case, that in cabinet already—perhaps my hon. friend does not know about this because he is not close enough to cabinet to find out these things—there are moves afoot to bring in a public law giving the open door treatment to companies

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

like Excelsior Life Insurance Company, and all the rest of the Companies foreign owned, and those controlled by foreign capital, saying to them—and this will occur if the government decision comes out in the open, and it will very soon—that they no longer have to go through the process of having their affairs examined in public; that they can come in by the back door and become incorporated by letters patent. If that comes to pass, as I am told it will—it is a matter the cabinet is discussing—it will simply be an indication once more of the favoured treatment the government has given and will continue to give to the foreign domination of this nation's economy.

**Mr. Gibson:** Which government, federal or provincial?

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Does my hon. friend have another question? I would be glad to listen to it.

• (6:50 p.m.)

In addition, it would not surprise me a bit if even in the rules of procedure of this house, the revision of which is to be tabled tomorrow by the procedures committee, some suggestion is not advanced which will give the government control over the affairs dealt with in private members hour, in order to buttress the position of the government, and through which the government can treat its friends with extreme favours.

**Mr. Deakon:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member for Skeena a question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have to remind the hon. member that the hon. member for Skeena now has the floor. The hon. member seeking to ask the question cannot do so unless he secures the permission and consent of the hon. member who has the floor.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to extend the consent to the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Deakon:** I was wondering whether the hon. member would enlighten me as to whether or not this is an exercise in futility.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the question is not entirely relevant. Also I have to say that some of the comments made by the hon. member for Skeena in my humble estimation were not entirely relevant to the bill before us. The question before the house is not the general matter of private bills and