

In issue 36 we see the same kind of answer in connection with the Virginia mill I mentioned a few minutes ago. This is my question as reported at page four of issue 36:

My first question to Mr. Horner or Mr. MacDonald is that before this agreement was entered into, was any examination made of what effect this has on the long-term prospects for Canadian newsprint sales in the United States, or was any consideration given to that at all?

Mr. MacDonald replied:

Mr. Crosbie, naturally these questions arise but I think the fundamental point you have to understand, as we do, is that that mill is going to be built by the Washington Post and Dow Jones enterprise in Virginia no matter what we say.

That was his answer. Then Mr. Summer said, as reported at page 36:5:

Thus you could say that, through increase of competition, it will in fact compete with Canadian sourced newsprint.

The EDC admits that this new mill will compete with our newsprint. Consolidated Bathurst came in to discuss the issue with them and got the same flapdoodle, the same old baffle-gaff, the same old twitter-twatter that we all get: "If we don't do it somebody else will."

Mr. Paproski: And Lalonde just laughs.

Mr. Crosbie: I don't mind that. I like to see the minister laugh. He is normally of somewhat sober visage. I like to see him get a chuckle out of this while our jobs and future industry go down the coal scuttle. There is ample confirmation, Mr. Speaker, of EDC using billions of our money and credit while not giving a thought to our long term future at all. They never consider whether what they do outside may compete with Canada inside. Can you imagine what would happen if the people in the pulp and paper industry and in the mining industry got that through their heads? They would be storming the EDC's gorgeous offices. They would storm those glass towers over there which the minister occupies, that emporium, that beatorium. It is futuristic. The elevators are all glass so you can see who is coming after you and get out some other door. I assume that's the reason, Mr. Speaker.

Well, sir, there is no wonder we are moving these amendments. It is surprising that our amendments are not stricter.

Another point our leader made was that every year we should examine, through parliamentary committees, how EDC is fulfilling its mandate. Our leader said we need a full-scale, thorough, and calm review of all activities of the Export Development Corporation. Well, the committee meetings we held were not all that thorough, full-scale or calm. We did our best, but we were harried and harassed every step of the way by an obdurate government with a big majority trying to crush the thing through the committee. The hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) one evening held off 12 Liberals by himself and saved the day for us.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: They tried to rush everything through. Imagine, 12 to one. But one Tory equals 12 Liberals any day, Mr. Speaker, except that we would like a few more in this House.

Export Development Act

Our leader in his speech on second reading also pointed out that we propose lowering of the ceiling. When he first came to our committee, the minister said he would consider that. It appeared to be something of a miracle—the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was going to be reasonable for a change, that he would not continue exhibiting the stubbornness he has shown ever since he crossed the House last year. It appeared he would be reasonable and consider our amendments. But he came back full of hubris—if that's the word. He told us later: "No, I am not going to consider any of your amendments. We are putting it through the House." He had to have it. Closure! By God, he was going to do everything to get it through the House. Thank God we only have the rest of the week, Mr. Speaker. I wouldn't want him after me in his cowboy boots all summer if we don't get this through for him. So his reasonableness disappeared very quickly. I don't know why. We are hoping he is going to swing around and support these amendments today.

I would like to refer to something said by my hon. friend from York-Simcoe. I am perhaps treading on his ground here but it was so extraordinary that I hope he will touch on it too. I want to refer to Issue 37 of the finance committee hearings, at page eight. The government is proposing a huge increase in the limits of the corporation now, but we really need to place limits on it, Mr. Speaker. Just listen to this. Mr. Stevens was speaking:

I noticed that you said this power project may be \$500 to a billion dollars. Is there some level beyond which you say you cannot go?

● (1602)

They are into the billion dollar deals now, but there is no level beyond which they say they cannot go on the lending side or whatever side, and I am sure that the hon. member for York-Simcoe will develop that a bit further. So that is another reason why we are suggesting stricter control over this corporation, Mr. Speaker, and any corporation of the Crown led by somebody who thinks there is no level beyond which they cannot go has got to be put under some kind of restraint. I would say anticipatory arrest would be the proper step to take so that this corporation does not continue thinking that there is no level beyond which it might not go.

Well, then, we get to another point that our leader made in his same speech on the second reading, and that was a point about the number of jobs created. I think that was mentioned by our leader. I just cannot find it. He mentioned sunset laws and so on. One of the points he made, or that we make, is the question of how many jobs this corporation is really creating because, Mr. Speaker, in its pride and in its political puffery, and in its political advertising and in its efforts to help the government in a partisan sense, this corporation claims that it is creating over 200,000 jobs a year.

That is what it says in its advertising, that it is creating 200,000 jobs a year. It is contributing to Canada. When that was challenged in the committee by the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke), who I am sure will go into this a bit more, when he wanted to find out more about this, how they made these estimates, the minister said, "Well, what