

tain (Mr. Deans) spoke about the same type of situation. He asked questions of the Minister responsible for this piece of legislation in the House of Commons. In that case an American firm is dumping its products in Canada at a cheaper price. As a result of the dumping exercise it is able to buy a Canadian company which is going into bankruptcy. I believe those examples point out the need for the amendments which are before us today.

It is interesting to consider what happened before the committee which studied this legislation. Witnesses appeared who were not New Democrats and were not aligned with the Canadian Labour Congress. They represent other sectors of our nation such as the Science Council of Canada, which is headed by the former Leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario, Dr. Stuart Smith. Dr. Smith spoke to some of the problems of research and development recognized by the Council of this legislation were passed without amendment. The President of NOVA Corporation, Bob Blair, spoke about the history of Canadian-owned corporations versus the history of American and other foreign-owned corporations. That type of testimony points out that there are a number of sectors of the Canadian community which are concerned about how this legislation is going to be put into place.

In a previous speech which I made in the House of Commons I pointed out that Canadian-owned firms basically do twice as much research and development as do American-owned firms. There are studies of the Science Council of Canada which prove that. The study by the Science Council of Canada pointed out that in two different situations it was evident that Canadian firms were more concerned about doing research and development in Canada.

That is important because our young people want to do more than just work in the factories. Some of them want to be involved in research and development. If those opportunities do not exist in Canada, many of our young people will have to look for job opportunities elsewhere. It is also important to know that if we do not do our own research and development in Canada, we will not benefit from the technological advances which take place. In other words, if Canadians do not have a chance to do the R and D and develop the new processes and machinery, short-term as well as long-term jobs will be lost in Canada. It is important to make some requirements of the Minister when we pass this legislation.

As indicated in the presentation of Mr. Blair, the President of NOVA Corporation, he believes that there is a higher level of corporate citizenship from Canadian controlled businesses than there is from foreign-controlled firms. We will have a chance to get into specifics as the various amendments come to the floor of the House of Commons today and over the next two or three weeks.

However, the general theme of what Mr. Blair said to us is very important. Mr. Blair is certainly not known for being a socialist or a supporter of this political Party. He points out that we can expect people who were brought up and educated in this country and whose firms developed within our nation, to have a higher sense of responsibility to the community and

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nation in which they exist. I think that is logical. Unfortunately, the opposite is true as well. An American firm which originated in Atlanta, or some other community in the south, is going to have a certain loyalty to its own community. It will have a certain loyalty to its own nation. This means, as in the examples I mentioned earlier, that when they acquire property and new technical ideas from buying a Canadian firm, they will take the benefit to their own country. It also means when it comes time, and it usually does come time in some of these firms where they have to have lay-offs or they have to shut a plant, that they are not as likely to shut a plant in their own nation as they are to shut a plant in Hamilton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, or in British Columbia. That is a problem we face. We are not saying that these foreign-owned firms are evil. That is hardly the case. They have by their very nature other interests and other loyalties.

● (1530)

It is important to us when we pass this legislation that we make sure the Minister and his Department see to it that these firms live up to some Canadian guidelines. This House of Commons is the logical place where those guidelines should be made.

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, this is the third time I have had the opportunity to speak on this Bill. As I have listened to the debate, there really is nothing I have heard that has made me change my mind that this Bill should be dealt with as an urgent matter. It really is, as I said earlier, a public relations gesture. I do not think there is any meat in the Bill that will create jobs immediately in Canada and certainly not in Atlantic Canada. It is like the old story of the preacher's marginal notes which say "argument weak, pound the pulpit". What the Government is doing here is more pulpit pounding in the absence of firm, cogent, meaningful arguments.

There has been a lot of that recently, particularly aimed at the United States. A debate is starting in Canada now with regard to how close the economic liaison should be. Mr. Hurtig, the Alberta publisher and Canadian nationalist, has said that the recent oil agreement signed between the western provinces and Ottawa is the biggest sell-out to foreign oil companies in history. While he is not specific, he said the new agreement amounts to a give-away of billions of dollars to non-Canadian companies and is also jeopardizing easily accessible Canadian reserves of light oil.

There will be a debate, no doubt, on how close those economic ties should be to the U.S. I look forward to that debate. Specifically, let us talk about foreign investment in Canada with regard to this Bill. I want to focus the attention of the House particularly on our Motion No. 9, which reads:

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out lines 29 to 31 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"(e) assist in the development of industrial and economic policies that effect investment in Canada and consult with labour, business and community representatives about the effects of proposals for acquisition and new business establishments by non-Canadians on regional employment and economic growth."