

In the last two years we have seen the government move in the textile industry so that foreign textiles have been kept out and have largely disappeared from our shelves. United States investment, with its large technological know-how, seems to be needed by us for at least the foreseeable future. If this U.S. technological know-how is unavailable or closed to us, as well as other technological know-how from western Europe and Japan, surely we in the long run will be poorer for this. It is doubtful whether our citizens would put up with a lower standard of living than our neighbours enjoy, particularly to the south of us. Technological know-how from other jurisdictions surely increases rationalization and modernization in our own economy. It forces our manufacturers to more productivity and presumably increases the standard of living of all our citizens.

In the recent tax changes made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) when he presented his budget greater stress was placed on tax incentives for the manufacturing industry. How will we obtain this high level of technology in manufacturing, particularly when it is recognized that our high priced manufacturers must sell largely in the United States market, unless we are willing to procure technological know-how from other countries?

In respect of Canadian banking institutions, it is pointed out they are doing business with other countries. Apparently, as Canadians, we are happy to have them do this, yet we have designated banking as one of those segments in which we do not wish any foreign investment. So, it seems in this area we have considerable differences of opinion and a collision of ideas.

Official statistics suggest there is a high percentage of foreign ownership and control in certain of our industries such as petroleum, chemical, rubber, machinery and manufacturing. It has been found that when a corporation changes from being foreign-owned to Canadian-owned it does not necessarily change its way of doing business or does a better job so far as the Canadian public is concerned. For instance, the CPR has been majority Canadian-owned just in the last decade, yet have there been any discernible changes in the policies of the CPR? I have yet to see them. It is just as actively engaged in discouraging travel by passengers as it has been in the past. I met one citizen who made the journey from Lethbridge to Winnipeg without ever having to turn in his ticket.

In the case of petroleum and natural gas, the recent decision of the National Energy Board, which was strictly political, to not export natural gas is an indication that this industry can be effectively controlled without foreign ownership. Without foreign investment there would at the present time be no western petroleum industry. This has all been developed with United States capital and a little western Canadian capital. Eastern money was not available or eastern investors were not interested in investing in the western oil industry at least to the present time.

It is often said that foreign investment is capital intensive and, therefore, we should not encourage it because it does not employ a lot of labour. The province of Alberta, with its rapidly growing cities of Edmonton and Calgary, demonstrates that oil and gas create a climate for the employment of a large number of people. It is estimated that over one million people are dependent in western

Regional Economic Expansion

Canada on the oil and gas industry. This represents 20 per cent of the total population of western Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's order paper, namely Notices of Motions and Public Bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DESIGNATION OF RENFREW COUNTY BEYOND JUNE 30, 1972

Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of extending the designation of Renfrew County for special incentives under the Regional Economic Expansion legislation beyond June 30, 1972.

He said: Mr. Speaker, on December 10, 1969 an almost identical motion was moved in this House by me. My concern then, as it is today, was for Lanark and Renfrew Counties, and I asked that they be named as special designated areas under the then new Regional Development Incentives Act. I was on that occasion ably supported by the hon. member for Renfrew North (Mr. Hopkins). Our representations in the House more than two years ago were but the tip of an iceberg, being that portion in view to the public of much larger representations we were making as vigorously as possible to bring federal assistance to eastern Ontario and to obtain an improved and better life for the people we represent.

In April, 1970, just four months after my motion was debated in this Chamber, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) named Renfrew County as a special area. This good news, which some said would never come, was met with startled disbelief, followed by a real sense of joy and enthusiasm by all who live in and love the Ottawa Valley. For too long too many people, especially in the Renfrew County area, have been living in the outer regions, just beyond the fringe of economic growth, so they have become accustomed to a very average and mediocre future as part of their lot. It is therefore a real source of satisfaction for me, as the federal Member of Parliament for a large portion of this county, to be able to play a part in breaking this block to progress. For two years now the county of Renfrew has been designated.

• (1700)

Two years ago the western world was in the midst of a very severe set-back in the aircraft production industry. The whole industry was in bad shape. This hurt Renfrew in particular which was very dependent upon that industry. Similarly the county had a natural dependence and tie-in with the forest industry which needed to be restructured. The forests needed to be better harvested and better utilized. The federal government under the leadership of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) not only had sympathy for the poorer areas of Canada but took action and set up a whole new Department of Regional Econom-