

Private Bills

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I welcome that interjection because that is precisely what we are doing, telling the truth—a truth which my hon. friend refuses to face—that if this bill goes through a financial return will accrue to certain individuals from this stock splitting which has to come out of the total wealth of this country just as surely as tax money comes out of the total wealth of this country. In the one case parliament in the name of the people controls it, decides the rate of taxation and decides where it will go. In this case a few private individuals get a share of the wealth of the country which has to be created by the people of Canada whether or not those few people need it, and whether or not it is in line with good social policies. No money finds its way into the pocket of any person in this country without wealth to back up that money having been created by the toil and labour of the people of this country; and I say to you that I am telling the truth, as the Minister of Finance suggested a moment ago, when I say that if parliament passes legislation like this it is permitting a few people to get hold of a certain portion of the wealth created by Canadians without regard to the social policy involved in action of this kind.

Mr. McCann: This is a transportation company.

Mr. Knowles: The Minister of National Revenue says this is a transportation company. He means it is a company engaged in the transport of oil from one part of the country to another.

Mr. McCann: Why then are you talking about resources?

Mr. Knowles: My hon. friend the Minister of National Revenue does not seem to realize that there is no wealth in Canada that is not created by the application of the labour power of our people to our natural resources. That is how the oil is brought to the surface in the first place. That is how the pipe line is built. That is how the pipe line is operated. And the wealth that is created in the operation of this pipe line and in the transporting of oil through the pipe line is created essentially in the same way wealth is created when workers are employed in a factory, when farmers toil on their farms, when fishermen work at sea or in any other way.

Our point, Mr. Speaker, is that basically all the wealth that is created in this country is created in the same way, by the application of the labour power of our people to our natural resources. A certain portion of

that wealth created by our people is obtained from them in the form of taxes. That portion that is obtained from them in the form of taxes is by the decision of the people's representatives here in parliament.

It is decided by parliament how that portion of the wealth that is obtained from the people is to be applied. But the taxes that are taken from the people of Canada are by no means the only money that is taken away from those who produce wealth. Every time a company makes a profit, whether it is a company that transports oil, a meat packing outfit, a railway or a firm that manufactures farm machinery—

Mr. Murphy (Lambton West): Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Knowles: Surely.

Mr. Murphy (Lambton West): I wonder if the hon. member would tell the house how five or six shareholders would benefit because the stock was split?

Mr. Winch: Because they get four shares for one.

Mr. Knowles: As has already been described by my colleagues who have spoken to this bill, if these shares are split on a five-way basis the immediate result will be that the price of the new shares will be approximately 20 per cent of the price of the present shares, which will produce trading on the stock market; and in view of what has been said about this company it is inevitable that such trading will result in the price of the new shares going up and wealth will be made. My hon. friend thinks it just comes out of thin air, that it just happens—

Mr. Hosking: If it is easy money why don't you buy some shares?

Mr. Knowles: No one has to buy these shares. But the wealth that is created has to be backed up by the labour of the people of Canada, and in transactions of this kind they do not have any say in where that wealth will go.

Mr. Hosking: Did you or your theories ever provide anyone with a job?

On motion of Mr. Knowles the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on Monday we shall have a supply motion.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.