

Canada Corporations Act

providing tens of thousands of jobs for Americans while we in British Columbia have created about 20 residual jobs out of this over-all development.

This sort of blind reasoning which leads governments to make treaties and deals of this sort is not good for Canada. We export our raw materials, we export power, and then we turn around and export the most precious product we have in Canada, our educated young boys and girls who have no jobs. Unemployment is soaring because we are exporting jobs every time we make a deal in which we export material which could and should be manufactured in Canada. This is where the Canadian Development Corporation comes into the picture. Why has it not been set up to develop our copper, iron and asbestos resources?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I have the impression the hon. member will not permit a question, but I do not want to pre-judge the issue. I believe the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) wishes to ask the hon. member a question.

Mr. Otto: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question? It will not take long. He had mentioned the Canadian Development Corporation so many times, and so did his leader. Is he aware that there is presently an incorporated company known as Canadian Development Corporation, with its head office at 85 Richmond Street West, Toronto, with directors in London, Ontario, and its solicitors being Thompson, Brown and Broadfoot? Surely he does not suggest that the Canadian government support the promotion of the stock in this private company?

• (5:20 p.m.)

Mr. Harding: That was a rather facetious question. The hon. member should have known better than to ask it. He is aware that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has indicated on numerous occasions that the government will introduce a bill along the lines which I have been discussing.

I wish to emphasize that I am particularly upset over the lack of plans to process our copper concentrates in British Columbia. Every pound is shipped out of British Columbia. For every job we have in the extractive industries there are dozens of jobs even in the first stages of manufacture. We do not even have a copper smelter to do the refining of the copper. This is where a

Canadian Development Corporation could easily come into the picture and give assistance if proper direction were given by the government.

There is just one more point I would like to make before I sit down. It is in connection with insurance companies. These are financial institutions. Over the years many of them have passed out of Canadian hands. I note that back in 1956 the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects said in its preliminary report:

Foreign ownership of the stocks of the Canadian chartered banks and of life insurance companies, which are incorporated under Canadian law, is not particularly large at the present time. It is desirable that Canadian control of these institutions be maintained. The commission suggests, therefore, that appropriate action be taken to prevent any substantial measure of control of the chartered banks and of life insurance companies from coming into possession of non-residents. One way in which this might be accomplished would be to provide by statute that any shares in such institutions which are acquired by non-residents of Canada in the future would be ineligible to vote. This restriction should not be applied to existing non-resident holders of such shares.

That recommendation was made 13 years ago. Since that time many insurance companies have passed from Canadian control. Every year we see a list of companies which have been lost so far as Canadian ownership is concerned. This is not an NDP story. This is the finding of economists who have been given a job to do. They have taken a look at the picture. They have come up with recommendations, but apparently those recommendations have not been acceptable to governments that have been in charge of Canada since 1956.

I see that my time has almost expired, Mr. Speaker, and I presume there are other hon. members who wish to say a few words on this bill before six o'clock. In closing I urge hon. members, regardless of party, to examine seriously the situation regarding foreign control. If they are convinced, as I am, that our independence, both economic and political, can be jeopardized by foreign control, I believe we should all make an effort to put teeth in the legislation in order to keep Canadian sovereignty in our hands for all time.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.