

● (3:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair will put the question on motion No. 6 in accordance with the special order. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. All those in favour of the said motion will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In my opinion the nays have it. *And more than five members having risen:*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 75 (11) the recorded division on the proposed motion No. 6 stands deferred.

Motion No. 7 will also stand, pursuant to the order made on Friday last. The Chair will now put Motion No. 8, and, as hon. members will remember, this motion is to be put by itself.

**Mr. Max Saltsman (for Mr. Burton) moved:**

That Bill C-219, An Act to establish the Canada Development Corporation, be amended by deleting Clause 18 and substituting the following:

"18. Except for those common shares of the company issued and allotted to the government which shall entitle the government to one vote for each share held, each shareholder who holds common shares of the company is entitled to one vote without regard to the number of shares held."

He said: Mr. Speaker, this amendment is one further attempt by my colleagues and myself to persuade the government to handle the Canada Development Corporation in a somewhat more progressive and forward-looking way than has been indicated up until now. The purpose of the amendment is to inject an element of corporate democracy into what is something other than that at the moment.

Through this particular amendment, we are trying to change the corporate structure in much the same way as democratic and political structures were changed a few centuries ago. As hon. members know, at one time in order to qualify as a voter one had to have property qualifications, and very often the amount of property owned permitted one to cast a larger stone into the political pool than would otherwise have been the case. As a matter of fact, in some cases if a person had enough property he could buy himself a rotten borough, and in effect be the only stone in the pool. Our society has progressed a long way from that.

We realize that this is not the way in which a democracy can function, and that the right to vote should not

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be dependent on the wealth of the individual. We realize that the opinion of each individual is worthwhile and important. So we have developed a democratic political system with this idea as its cornerstone. Now, we think that we should be moving in that same direction so far as corporations are concerned. We believe that when a new corporation like the CDC is being formed, when what is essentially a new experiment in corporate life is taking place, some thought should be given to the reorganization of the voting pattern within the corporation.

We have excluded the government from our proposed pattern because probably at the very best the corporation will have fewer than 10 per cent of 15 per cent of the Canadian population participating directly in it. Therefore, the government should have more say than individual investors because it represents the remainder of those Canadians, who are not members of the corporation by direct investment means. With respect to the other investors, the effect of our amendment would be that where an investor holds a block of shares that give him a 3 per cent financial interest in the corporation, and where another investor holds one single share which may represent an infinitesimal percentage of the financial interest of the corporation, each should have equal voting rights. This is a radical and sharp departure from what has been the "norm" in voting in corporations, but we believe it is something the House should consider, and of course it is something that we commend to hon. members.

We have expressed our concern that the CDC rather than becoming, as the government claims, an instrument whereby the small Canadian investor could have a considerable say in the development of his country, will fall under the control of the large financial and other corporations of Canada. This situation must be avoided at all costs. If this amendment is accepted, we can make a substantial stride in that direction. We can insure that no matter what the financial involvement of a single investor may be, or of a large group of investors may be, when it comes to voting on corporation business that person or group will have no more power, no more votes than any shareholder who holds only one share. This is really democratic corporate control. At least it is a step in that direction, and I think it is a step the government and the House should endorse. With these few comments, may I commend the amendment that stands in the name of the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) and which I have the honour to move on his behalf.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** All those in favour will please say yea.