

Foreign Control of Canadian Industries

• (8:40 p.m.)

There are grants given to the publishing industry. Recent Canada Council grants totalled \$77,000, but these did not include the text book publishing industry. Grants are given to the Canadian film industry, but they are not given for text book publishing. To visualize the problem, all we really need do is recognize that the research and development which goes into building a text book is very similar to the research and development that may go into building an appliance, an automobile or even a mousetrap. How foolish, it seems to me, that we should provide industrial incentives to build an appliance, an automobile, or even a mousetrap, but not provide them for educational materials. How foolish that we should provide industrial incentives for the defence industry, but ignore the educational industry. There is legislation now which could be extended to include editorial R & D. It would help.

I now come to my point on the constitutional interest in these matters. I am concerned that we may be so preoccupied with our internal stresses that we are overlooking the external threats; that we may become so preoccupied with the jurisdictions between the provinces and the federal government that we ignore the really important questions of Canadian nationhood and Canadian identity. I would like to urge, in my concluding remarks, that the questions of Canadian ownership and Canadian identity be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming constitutional conference.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Gillespie: It seems to me important that we start now to develop a dialogue with the provinces, a dialogue which they will recognize as being equally important to each of them. I would hope that out of this dialogue would come an understanding of the problems of preserving a Canadian identity based on our own unique originality, an understanding which would include resource industries, and education which are now very largely provincial matters. I would hope that out of this understanding would come an agreement that certain powers might be transferred to the federal government so that it can deal effectively with this aspect of our national life.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I was very interested before the dinner adjournment to hear the hon. member for York North (Mr. Danson) use his initiative

[Mr. Gillespie.]

and produce a different speech than he had originally planned. I am happy to see that he has now been relegated to the rump, which may be significant.

However, this is a very serious debate. It is one that produces a great deal of heat on the part of some people. In my opinion this is a very good thing, because it is probably one of the most important problems we face today. The problem is growing at a fairly alarming rate. I was interested to hear the last speaker, who I understand has considerable experience in manufacturing, raise the arguments on the constitution that other hon. members have raised today. It is quite true that in a federal state we have more difficulty in developing a national aptitude and a national policy than would be the case if we were a unitarian state. It is also true that most nations in the world are unitarian.

Mr. Lewis: "Unitary".

Mr. Peters: Well, unitarian, unitary; what's the difference? It seems to me to be the same thing. There may be a difference in congregation. These problems may be easier to handle if you do not have the additional problem of being a federal state. It seems to me that anybody who uses the constitution as an excuse for every difficulty, as the Liberal party appears to be doing on almost every issue, is really not willing to face up to any issue at all.

Canadians faced a constitutional problem many years before we in this house were born and before our nation was founded. It was a problem before Canada developed, and it will be a problem for many years to come. There are those who say that because the constitution does not allow an easy distribution of powers, the federal government should not do anything about these problems until we have a constitutional conference of the federal government and the provinces. I ask, what will this accomplish? Provinces will take a totally different position about Canadian ownership and control of our economy; each province will have its own ideas on this subject, and rightly so.

I have been interested in the last few days in listening to some of the cabinet members who represent Quebec ridings portraying in a very aesthetic sense a solution for Canadian unity; yet the province they represent is in more desperate need of Canadian economic development and control than any other province of Canada. Quebec is now faced with an immense unemployment problem. Part of that