

For years the New Democratic Party has complained about how bad it is to have American multinational corporations reaping benefits out of Canada. Now, because there are some Canadian corporations which are expanding outside Canada and exporting technology, savoir-faire and so on, they are the villains. Of course there are some problems, but they are not the result of foreign ownership. INCO is Canadian owned. Because of the international market situation demand for nickel throughout the world has gone down. There is less production of steel. Often in the resource industry there are ups and downs, and at this time the international nickel market dictates that there cannot be any more nickel stockpiled.

There was stockpiling for three years because it was hoped that the market would turn around. However, any more stockpiling would compound the problem because prices are depressed, and if everyone stockpiles even more, the price will go down further and create more problems. We are trying to find some solution to this problem. We think it is a short term problem.

When Canadian companies like Northern Telecom or INCO are able to expand and go into foreign markets and try to specialize in some fields to promote good industrial development in other nations, we are told that they should not expand outside Canada. We are told that mines are being developed in Guatemala and Malaysia and that that is bad. That is absolutely unbelievable. We are told that it is bad that INCO should develop mines in those countries and that, as a result, our own mines will not be developed. Do hon. members opposite not know that there are other people besides Canadians who can develop mines? The British can go to those countries as well as the Germans and the Japanese. There are dozens of companies which would be willing to export engineering technology which creates markets for goods we can produce, and in mining technology we are one of the best in the world.

If we do not export our technology it is naive to believe nobody else will, because there are many other people who will do that. On any social issue it is typical of the NDP to take the side of the bleeding hearts.

Mr. Broadbent: Like INCO miners.

Mr. Chrétien: In the case of INCO the NDP is involved not because of its social conscience, but because it is trying to reap benefit for itself.

Mr. Broadbent: You're kidding.

Mr. Chrétien: Because we have problems in our mining industry, the proposition is that the countries of the Third World should not receive any technical help to develop their resources and that they should be allowed to starve. The NDP is saying that we should not try to help developing nations.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): That is a straw man.

Mining Unemployment

Mr. Chrétien: I can understand that the NDP might say "to hell with the poor nations who have to develop their resources", but we have international conferences at which we are trying to find solutions for the Third World and to help them create jobs for their people in order to bring wealth to those nations so that they can become self-sufficient. I think the attitude of the NDP is appalling. I do not deny that we have problems in the mining industry, but the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) in his confusion started to talk about foreign capital. In the case of INCO it is not foreign capital but Canadian capital.

Mr. Broadbent: Did you listen to the argument, you dodo?

Mr. Chrétien: For ten or 15 years the NDP said that foreign capital in Canada was the heel of the world, but now it has turned around. Members of the NDP say that Canadian companies should not be multinational, that we should not go into foreign fields, and that our own international corporations are as bad as the others. I think they are just trying to confuse the issues.

Mr. Broadbent: They confused you.

Mr. Chrétien: Of course we are having some problems, but do hon. members think that if we were to nationalize INCO tomorrow suddenly the market around the world would improve and that the Americans would start to buy our nickel?

Mr. Broadbent: Who talked about nationalizing INCO?

Mr. Chrétien: You did. That is always the solution; if companies do not keep people they should be nationalized. That is what has been done in South America for generations, and that is why they are now in such a mess. Rather than facing problems in a rational way they took the easy, emotional route. They said, "Get the Americans out of here and we will nationalize," and eventually everything closed down.

In the present context my colleagues and I have entered into discussions with INCO and other corporations to try to minimize adverse affects, and made the proposition to their workers that they share the work among themselves during a difficult period. It is a human approach to the problem, not a rhetorical approach where you offer easy solutions. We have looked at the possibility of stockpiling but it is, I believe, a corporate decision of the company. Even at this time with a slowdown in the demand, we are expecting a turn around this coming year. They have already stockpiled an inventory of something like eight or nine months of nickel. We have discussed this with them and nobody agrees that it is a way out of the situation because it could perhaps depress the market even further.

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Mr. Broadbent: Nobody but the miners.

Mr. Chrétien: Of course we have difficulties in the mining or in the forestry industries, or in any other industry whose economy is up and down, and this sector is affected now. There