

who has consistently advocated an enlarged government role in a support position and as one who has consistently declared himself in favour of programs such as PAIT and IRDIA, that this is an excellent use of tax dollars. I would put this to a vote in the city of Peterborough at any time. I could put it to a vote of members of local 524 of the UE.

I could put the question to the steel workers: Do you believe the PAIT or IRDIA should be abolished? Not one of them would agree with such a proposition. They know they are able to place in foreign markets such as Brazil and Botswana the products they are producing because the government has come into these schemes. I would say to the ministers concerned: Keep it up. That is what the people of Peterborough want. They are not concerned with all this nonsense we have heard today from the other side of the House.

I wish to spend a few moments considering one or two areas of effort which particularly concern me. The first is the work of the Export Development Corporation. This may not be described as an incentive program but it is certainly a support program. In 1971, Canadian General Electric—I am thinking particularly of the Peterborough Branch—was financed to the extent of \$3.5 million by the agency.

Let us look at the record of the EDC. Exports insured in 1971 amounted to about \$392 million in value. These are operations under section 24 of the act. Under section 27, exports insured amounted to a value of \$89 million. Speaking from the base I represent, one of the things which has plagued us continually is the problem of concessional financing. The government has gone a long way to meet this difficulty under section 79. In area or export financing, the value of contracts signed amounted to \$240 million. Under section 31, the value of contracts signed was \$100 million.

At the present time Canadian General Electric Company is seeking to make major inroads into the export market, particularly in the heavy electrical field, and I think it can be said that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Export Development Corporation in particular, have played an important support role in this effort. Some of these business propositions involve very difficult markets—Roumania, Israel, Poland and New Zealand, for example—and the arrangements which can be made in respect of the financing are often critical in ensuring success.

We are very optimistic about the possibilities of the deal now contemplated with Roumania. The role the corporation and the department are playing has become critical to the success of these ventures. I would therefore have expected to hear more from the opposition with regard to the operations of the Export Development Corporation as one agency with which the government has been associated.

I wish to consider briefly, now, the role played by PAIT. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howard) has touched on it. Again, it is fair to say that in the case of the Canadian General Electric Company, support under PAIT and IRDIA has been offered and accepted. This has led to the carrying out of work for which we are peculiarly adapted

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in Canada and which has put us in the forefront of technological progress in a number of areas.

I think of the Eel River power development; I think of the work done jointly by the New Brunswick Power Commission and the Canadian General Electric Company; I think of the new high voltage direct current technology which was developed and installed in large measure as a result of the support given to the company by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce under the IRDIA program. Other companies in my area have received the benefit of similar support, including the de Laval Company and the Fisher Gauge Company, a small, totally Canadian-owned and highly successful venture. Again, they have been assisted by the Program for Advancement in Industrial Technology.

In my judgment, these programs put forward by the government have worked to support Canadian manufacturing and Canadian technology. They have made it possible for Canadian manufacturers not only to compete at home against offshore competition but to find new markets abroad. In doing so they have provided the employment with which all of us are deeply concerned. If there is criticism to be directed against these programs, it can only be that they have not gone far enough.

I have studied the development of PAIT. In 1965, PAIT, it seemed to me, was a defective program. It was not as good as it is today. It has been improved. That is true of some of the other programs. If the debate today were to serve any useful purpose, the opposition should have taken a hard look at these programs and produced suggestions for improving them; I am sure the mind of the government is open with respect to considering ways in which they could be improved. To my mind, the debate has been a failure because of the refusal of the opposition to deal specifically with the programs they have brought before the House for criticism. I now turn to a subject I have raised before in this House. I think specifically of the position of the heavy electrical industry of this country. The government's record in support of the heavy electrical industry has been pretty clear. Some of the financing that we have made available to the utilities in the various provinces, and the conditions attached to such financing to the effect that they support Canadian technology, have in fact served the interests of Canadian technology. But the fact remains that the utilities are the creatures of the provinces. Their main interest is to get the generators, the switch gears and whatever heavy electrical equipment they need at the lowest possible price, and apparently up to this point, with very few exceptions, they have been unwilling to really support Canadian technology, Canadian workmen and Canadian manufacturing to the extent they should.

• (1740)

Let me examine the Peace River project. Out of a total of \$49 million spent on that project, foreign firms from Japan, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden and France took over 50 per cent of the orders. I should like to ask, when was the last time Canadian heavy electrical manufacturers were successful in bidding in any of those countries? When was the last time Canadian heavy electrical manufacturers were able to bid in Japan, Sweden or Britain? They are closed markets. They do not accept,