

*Election Expenses*

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, I would be more than pleased to accommodate the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner).

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, could the hon. member explain to the House how one could accurately, from day to day, determine whether a company is more than 10 per cent owned by a foreign concern or foreign people? These shares trade every day on the market. It would be almost impossible to keep abreast of the exact percentage owned by a foreign concern.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, we manage to do it under the Bank Act and with respect to some insurance companies. Transcoastal Life was one, although I think it has since changed its name. United Investment Life was another. There are provisions in the foreign ownership bill for it. We manage to do it under other statutes, too. I am sure it would not be impossible for a corporation to make such a statement at the time it wanted to make a contribution to a political party. In any event, if it is set out in the statute, the obligation is on the group or corporations that makes the contribution to apprise itself whether it is legal to make that contribution; it is a responsibility that devolves on the particular corporation.

While we are on the subject of contributions to political parties, Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been said about the source of funds of the New Democratic Party especially as it relates to the trade union movement. Let me set it out for you, if I can, without quoting chapter and verse from our constitution. There is provision within the constitution of the New Democratic Party, as there was in the CCF as well, under which any economic or other group that wants to in Canada, but not outside Canada, can make the decision of its own volition to affiliate its members who so desire with the New Democratic Party. It agrees to pay an affiliation fee of 60 cents per year, five cents per month, for each member of the organization who may want to affiliate. That organization is then an affiliate member of the New Democratic Party. Some trade unions located in Canada have made that decision. Some I know, some I do not. Of those I know, the decision was made in Canada by members of the union who are Canadians. They pay dues to that organization. The decision is made in a democratic way; someone moves a motion, it is debated and there is a vote. There is provision for people to opt out of paying the five cents per month affiliation fee.

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The entire mechanism of the decision-making is within Canada. It is made by members of organizations within Canada, not outside. As far as I know, there is in fact a prohibition; there is no mechanism within the NDP whereby organizations outside this country can establish a relationship of that nature with our party.

What we want to do is spell out in the law that if the Teamsters Union, for the sake of argument, wants to make a donation to the Liberal Party, it should do so within Canada. The same should apply to any other union or organization. In the subamendment we want to see this

[Mr. Howard.]

apply to corporations. We tried to define that a corporation shall be not less than 50 per cent Canadian owned in order to meet the criteria established by law for being classified as a Canadian corporation which is entitled to have some influence on the political process in this country.

What we disagree with most strenuously is the practice, to the extent that it exists, or the possibility of forces and elements outside Canada paying the bills for candidates running for election in order to represent Canadian interests. They already dominate our economy. Through that economic domination they have an undue, disproportionate influence on our social values and our social and educational systems. They should not be permitted to have an influence on our political system.

We deny to all except Canadian citizens the right to vote for members of parliament. We have removed the last exemption which applied to British subjects; that exemption will cease some time in 1975. The last exemption has been removed from the Elections Act. There must be the "you don't change the goalposts in the middle of the game" concept. There must be recognition of the fact that certain rules were established and existed at a certain point in time. In any event, those people could not become Canadian citizens for five years because that is what the law says. There was a five-year tolerance period beyond the last amendment in 1970. To all intents and purposes, only Canadian citizens will be able to vote in Canadian elections to elect members to this chamber. A companion to that should be the provision that only Canadian money from Canadian sources can be used.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

**Mr. Rod Blaker (Lachine-Lakeshore):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to motions Nos. 7, 17 and 31 of the election expenses bill. I have a particular interest in these motions since during the committee I prepared motions with a similar intent. After giving due consideration to the mechanisms and intentions involved, I eventually withdrew my motions. These three motions and the amending motion which came up yesterday are obviously an attempt to keep Canadian elections politically financed by Canadians whether they be individuals, trade unions, organizations or whatever.

The original three motions which refer to registered parties and candidates in terms of donations and expenses all read the same provided, however, that all such money shall be in Canadian funds and collected from Canadian sources. There is not much reference to "Canadian sources" which was debated in the House yesterday. The term "sources" was not sufficiently clear. I find that the amending definition of the word "sources" is not much improved. The suggestion was made to remove the word "sources" and replace it with the following:

"citizens, persons with landed immigrant status, corporations which have no less than 50 per cent of their voting stock owned by Canadian citizens and not more than 10 per cent of their voting stock owned by any foreign group or person, trade unions which are located in Canada, and associations or organizations"

I have some difficulty, as was expressed by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), understanding how