

Export Development Corporation

of the largest multinational chains in the world. Surely the Canadian taxpayer is entitled to this information.

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to second the motion moved by my dear colleague, the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert). There are a couple of things I would like to clarify for him as a result of my research. As I understand it, the motion before us requests an order for copies of all correspondence, all notes, the minutes of meetings and all documents and agreements relating to the financing by the Export Development Corporation of a cane sugar complex in the Republic of the Ivory Coast to be built by Redpath Sugars Limited.

As I understand it, the project in question is an integrated sugar complex. It is wholly-owned by the government of the Ivory Coast, a government which has committed itself to expanding and diversifying its agricultural base. In an effort to expand its agricultural base, it created Sodesucre, a government-owned corporation, to assume the responsibility for the production of Ivory Coast sugar. The country has traditionally imported sugar and hopes to develop its own natural resources to supply the domestic market and to provide the country with foreign exchange earnings from export sales. In all our dealings with underdeveloped countries, we try to ensure that they have the opportunity to become self-sufficient. In addition, we hope that they develop agro-industrial bases so that they can exchange their goods and products with other countries of the world.

How was this company established? Sodesucre called for tenders in the international market for the development of this sugar complex. In response to this call, Redpath Sugar submitted a successful bid. The bid was won in the face of very stiff international competition from firms which were supported by their national equivalents of the Export Development Corporation. The successful bid of the Canadian firm will result in the placing of substantial equipment orders in Canada and in the creation of jobs for Canadians employed by suppliers and subsuppliers.

The sugar complex is a commercial project being built because the government of the Ivory Coast has decided that its economy needs, and can benefit from, such a complex. The Export Development Corporation supports commercially viable transactions which involve exports beneficial to Canada, so it is *quid pro quo*.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Are you a free trader?

Mr. Parent: I believe that if free trade benefits Canada, I would be a free trader. I believe we have to consider the over-all benefits which would accrue to our own country as well as the countries with which we are dealing.

To get back to what I was saying, by definition such a transaction involves a willing buyer and a willing seller. In other words, it must be mutually advantageous and mutually beneficial, as I was saying to the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker)—or is it Ottawa-Carleton?

[Mr. Herbert.]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): "Grenville-Carleton".

Mr. Parent: Renfrew county?

Mr. Paproski: That must have been quite a party you had.

Mr. Douglas (Bruce-Grey): "Granulated Renfrew".

Mr. Parent: If I can get on with this very serious topic without these remarks from my left and my right—

Mr. Symes: Get after those corporate welfare bums.

Mr. Parent: I do not have to go after them; I can go after you fellows.

Furthermore, it should be a financially sound proposition. I hear someone coming.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): They have come for you.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

• (1742)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following bills:

Bill C-11, An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to provide other authority for the raising of funds.—Chapter No. 1.

Bill C-15, Appropriation Act No. 3, 1977-78.—Chapter No. 2.

Some hon. Members: Six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: May I call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At 5:43 p.m. the House took recess.