

me to be confused about how such a Crown corporation might operate. Some of his remarks seemed to suggest that the financial community should be forced to invest in such a corporation and to finance it. This is an attitude we quite frequently see on the part of the New Democratic Party, a party which calls itself democratic. In areas of economics and finance it frequently takes a hard line attitude; it frequently takes the attitude that a certain group should be forced to do something. I believe the whole spirit of our economy must be built on the idea of creating a favourable climate for growth, that no one should be forced but that opportunities should be provided for many.

Those Conservatives who have taken part in this debate and do not approve the legislation—there are those who approve it in principle—have decried the fact that this is a Socialist device. I emphasize that this is a private corporation, concerned with the private sector, which is to have a board of directors drawn from the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier in my remarks, this is a big subject. I should now like to deal with some of the areas in which I hope we will be able to move, because I think there are one or two questions which need attention. The purposes of the bill are clear: they are stated in the bill itself. One purpose is to help develop and maintain strong Canadian controlled and Canadian-managed corporations. There is no question that the corporation will be an important one. Its powers are established and are clear. It is to have considerable resources. But I believe a question we might properly ask is this: Is the timing of this corporation suitable at the moment? In my introductory remarks I stated that I saw the Canada Development Corporation as part of a major industrial strategy. It would seem to me to be important that some of the other parts of this major industrial strategy, particularly the part dealing with foreign ownership, be before Parliament before we proceed too far. In clause 6(1)(c), on page 3, the bill provides:

to invest in the shares or securities of any corporation owning property or carrying on business related to the economic interests of Canada—

Similarly in subclause (d):

to invest in ventures or enterprises, including the acquisition of property, likely to benefit Canada—

I have the following problem in respect of these clauses. Who is to determine what is in the best interests of Canada and who is to determine what is likely to benefit Canada? Is it to be this Parliament, the government or the board of directors of the Canada Development Corporation? I for one would not be happy if I felt this Parliament were delegating to a board of directors of a private corporation the responsibility for determining what is in the best interests of Canada until such time as Parliament had made very clear what it expects the corporation and its directors to regard as the best interests of Canada. The question then is, who is to determine what are the best interests and what are the criteria.

I believe the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) was most helpful in his remarks when presenting the bill for

Canada Development Corporation

second reading. He set forth many of these elements. They might be described as some of the elements or objectives of an industrial strategy. For instance, he emphasized that the corporation will be concerned with the future rather than the past. He emphasized that the corporation should consider Canadian control as important. He emphasized that efficiency of Canadian industry is essential—I believe those were his words—that the rationalization of Canadian industry is an important element in providing for the efficiency of Canadian industry, and that this corporation might meet that test.

He set forth several other points which I think might be included in this area. He emphasized that Canadian industry must be able to compete with multinational corporations on an international scale. He emphasized the importance of building Canadian-based multinational corporations. He said he felt the corporation should give special attention to our resource industries, to those of high technology, to our northern industries and in industries in respect of which Canada has a comparative advantage.

Mr. Speaker, I commend to members of this House pages 3630 and 3638 of *Hansard* which reproduce these statements of the Minister of Finance. They represent an important part of an industrial strategy. While I do not pretend to have researched this subject in depth, I would argue these are the most reasonable and comprehensive statements made recently by a government spokesman in respect of an industrial strategy for Canada. So in that sense I accept the Canada Development Corporation as a fitting instrument to secure the objective of an over-all industrial strategy. However, as I have indicated there are several areas in respect of which need to articulate the policy in the industrial area. Perhaps very shortly these will be before us. They have to do with the competitive policy, science and technology and foreign ownership.

● (4:00 p.m.)

I suggest that it would assist enormously the House and the public if we could consider this bill alongside the governments' proposed policy on foreign ownership. The debate last week with respect to Home Oil emphasized to me the need to establish rules regarding the takeover of Canadian industry. In that connection it would seem to me that a takeover review board is an essential mechanism so that at least the national interest can be considered by persons given the specific responsibility of assessing the takeover. By that I do not mean the review board will not authorize some takeovers. I am sure there would be many industries and companies approved for foreign takeover by the review board, but there might be many more takeovers which would not be in the national interest.

In conclusion I would emphasize that in my view the Canada Development Corporation is an important instrument of industrial policy. I regret that we do not have at the present time a foreign ownership policy to consider alongside it. I urge the government to give priority to bringing in a foreign ownership policy. I have one other reservation with respect to this bill. I hope that it will be a long time before shares are sold to the public because it seems to me that if the CDC is to do the kind of things