

Minister's recent visit there with a significant number of very substantial business personalities from this country. On that trip they did business, and that is what his job is all about. Really, that is what the CDC is all about. It is a vehicle that is geared to assist our people in big business, in medium-sized business and in small business to move our products to the markets of the world. For, after all, we are traders. In many ways we are free traders. We are determined as exporters, as a basic exporting nation, to try to get our goods to the four corners of the earth. That is the case, and the EDC is a very significant vehicle because there is all kinds of competition out there by other nations against our goods. I am sure that the Minister realizes that more and more every day. Certainly, the more one visits the Pacific, the more one realizes just how difficult it is for our business community to compete against the emerging nations. It does not just involve Japan in the Pacific anymore; it involves the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. It is also starting to involve Indonesia and the Philippines. We must be there every day. I believe that the Minister, from his many experiences with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia and in his present position, has a grasp of what is needed. However, I suggest that what is needed is not a bunch of civil servants, on this particular board.

One of the really sad things that I see about this nation that is not in evidence in many other nations is that we do not use all of the talent that we have available for as long as it is available. We have a system where everyone must sort of put one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel once he becomes 65 years of age. There is a wealth of experience existing in Canada found in chairmen of boards and banks and in the small, medium and large industries in our country that is not being utilized.

The Hon. Member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) pointed out a very significant example of what happened in Alberta with only two Government Members on a very significant board. I say to the Minister, let us go out there. I do not really believe that we can go to the sectors and ask businessmen to go on boards when there is any possibility of a conflict of interest or an unjust advantage to others in the same industries. However, I think that there are chairmen and presidents from Bell Canada and other corporations. One of the companies that the Minister and I both know very well is Northern Telecom. I happen to have the good fortune to have a Northern Telecom plant in my constituency. The Minister happened to be the Premier of Nova Scotia at the time that that plant was established. We both know what the then Chairman, Mr. Scribner, did for Canada. We know what Walter Light is doing for Canada now and Ben Benato. We know what others, especially in that sector of industry, know about the international marketing of products. As the Japanese often say, "Marketing is everything". Through vehicles like the EDC, we must assist those companies to get in there and meet the very heavy competition in the international world; for instance, Northern Teledon, without the same

Export Development Act

breadth and depth of a company like Seaman's, going in and beating it five times out of six. We must have people sitting on the EDC to be able to process applications with the snap of a finger. We do not want weeks and weeks of delay, double checking and looking to see that every T is crossed, which is the art and the style of civil servants. We have to give the background and the confidence to those people out there when they are in Singapore, in Germany, in Norway, or wherever they are, of knowing that they are going to have a board of directors, indeed, EDC, that will be with them all the way and will help and not hinder them. I think we have the kind of Minister who realizes that. I think the amendment is a good amendment. I think that puts you, Sir, where people cannot accuse you of political patronage when you are looking for directives. I think it puts you in a position where you are forced to be non-partisan, because everyone will be watching you and saying, "Let us see if the Minister is going to some big Grit or if he is going to give the private sector an opportunity and appoint the first best person who is available who is not implicated or involved in any way at this moment in his life." I think then we will be satisfied. The Minister will be satisfied. But, far more important, the people who are selling for us, earning the tax dollars for us so we can pay our other bills will be very confident in the Minister, they will be very confident in the Government and they will produce new jobs for the people. That is the bottom line for all of us right now and that is my contribution to the debate, Mr. Speaker.

● (1640)

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a few observations and interjections. If we really want to try to debate and perhaps govern properly by the use of the parliamentary process, the Government might listen to what has been said. The Hon. Member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin), the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for International Trade who is responsible for this Bill, has perhaps in his own words just brought up the very compromise which would get this matter moving if the Government would like to agree. The Hon. Member was upset and somewhat concerned that we needed a broad range of people. He felt that if we had 12 of the 15 from the private sector it may not be a broad enough range. I, on the other hand, say that if you have a majority from one group, one institution, being the Public Service of Canada, that that would be too restrictive and not be a broad enough range.

Mr. Tobin: Agreed.

Mr. Dick: The Hon. Member felt we should have a person from the Bank of Canada, a person from the Department of Trade, a person from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, a person from the Department of Finance, a person from CIDA and someone, perhaps an officer of the company itself appointed to the board of directors. That adds up to six.

Mr. Tobin: That's a minority.