

I submit that if we cannot have public examination of this corporation we should at least have in camera meetings in committees of the House of Commons, with a free licence to roam, investigate and know what is going on. That is the least that should be extended to elected Members of Parliament. There will be six people hired on the board of directors who will be working for Canada, with another three appointed from outside the Public Service. I believe that the elected people should be able to know how the six hired members and three appointed members are working on behalf of all of Canada and whether they are paying proper attention to those industries which need it the most, including the fishing industry which I have mentioned.

Will this corporation emphasize food exports as a nation with a heart and with consideration not only for the hungry people abroad but also for those people at home who make their living from these industries? I question whether the lake group would be facing as many difficulties at this time if CIDA had picked up a reasonable portion of product and exported it abroad. Would any fish processor in Atlantic Canada be in circumstances as difficult as those in which they are at present if we had offered more fish as food, through CIDA, to help the starving millions of this world. I believe that is our role. Without a mechanism for reviewing this structure we will never know how much attention has been paid to the industries and countries which need help and whether the corporation is performing a job that is acceptable to Canadians.

For example, I wonder if there is any possibility for exports for *Entreprise Foundry* in Sackville, New Brunswick, which recently suffered the misfortune of an economic demise. Last Friday, the Province of New Brunswick assumed responsibility for the management and operation of that plant for a year on a trial basis. Will the Export Development Corporation look at that industry in order to determine if there is a market for its product which could be aided by export credit? Is the EDC prepared to extend the terms and conditions which would make it possible for this industry to thrive and prosper as it once did, or will it be treated with another freight raise, with the removal of the Maritime freight rate benefits as the western farmers are being punished with the change in the Crow rate?

I say to the Government that it is imperative that this organization direct its efforts toward those parts of Canada that need help the most, whether it be in shipbuilding, steel, fish or agriculture. I hope there will be a special effort made to seek export opportunities for our products.

Let me reiterate that the least the Government can offer this House is the opportunity to hold in camera meetings to discuss fully the details of the use of 50 billion tax dollars.

Export Development Act

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott)—Energy—Fluctuations in Ontario gasoline prices. (b) Impact of tax on prices; the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor)—Veterans' Affairs—Request that a commemorative medal be struck to honour Dieppe veterans; the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy)—Canada Labour Code—Protection of workers' health—Introduction of amending legislation. (b) Timing of introduction of amending legislation.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-110, to amend the Export Development Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs; and Motion 2 Nos. 3 and 5 (Mr. Blenkarn).

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this very important debate today. Before I begin, however, I think I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work that was done on this particular Bill by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). He has spent a considerable amount of time on this Bill and has worked quite closely with our caucus and other interested groups from the public who have a great interest in this particular piece of legislation. I wanted to put it on the record that we in this Party are very pleased and wish to thank him publicly for the work he has done.

Let me quote what the Auditor General said last fall. He said:

Parliament is becoming further isolated from an increasing portion of Government activities. The growing practice of using Crown-owned corporations to conduct a widening range of Government activities has so strained the capability of the existing accountability framework that Parliament may not be able to exercise its fundamental responsibility for overseeing receipts and expenditures of public funds.

That is what we are debating today. In the four and one-half years that it has been my privilege to be here in the House of Commons representing the constituency of Brampton-Georgetown, I have seen Bill after Bill, Act after Act, come before the House which has slowly eroded the responsibility of a Member of Parliament. It is embarrassing for a Member to return to his