

Foreign Takeovers Review Act

department of commerce pointed out, most of the money used by American corporations is ours anyway. Why can we not use the money ourselves? With leadership from this government, with its many recommendations, commission and task forces, that money can be put to use in Canada on behalf of the Canadian people. A lot of this country's wealth is invested in foreign Corporations on behalf of Canadians. Much of our money goes overseas to Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. A lot of this money, with proper planning, could be channeled into investment in our own country.

I recall picking up a newspaper when I was in Jamaica about a year and a half ago. I was startled by the headline. It said "Jamaicanize the economy; get rid of Canadian investment". In Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago and countries like that, they are not as worried about American investment as Canadian investment. We, too, are guilty in terms of going into some countries and exploiting them because we can make a profit. You can stand on a street corner in London and see four Canadian corporations which are now multinational.

Mr. Pepin: How can they be multinational if they are Canadian?

Mr. Nystrom: We do have the funds. A lot of this could be channelled into Canada and it would be of benefit to Canadian people from coast to coast.

I think the policy of the New Democratic Party with regard to the Canada Development Corporation is very well known. This is one of the many instruments that could be used by the government if it were really serious about developing Canada for Canadians. I do not want to go into it at this time, but that is one instrument that could be used very effectively if we were serious about our economy.

The fourth area that I alluded to a few minutes ago was the general area of political independence. I believe that because of the degree of economic dependence we have on the United States in particular, in many cases our political independence is seriously threatened. I believe that if we were not so dependent upon United States corporations we would have a more independent foreign policy which would have a more positive impact on the world in general. I want to quote a short comment by John Foster Dulles when he talked about economic imperialism, if you want to use the word vis-à-vis the conquering of a country by force. Dulles said:

• (1540)

"There are two ways of conquering a foreign nation. One is to gain control of its people by force of arms and the other is to gain control of its economy by financial means."

I suggest that whether we like it or not, or whether we want to admit it or not, the fact that so much of our economy is foreign-owned, particularly by United States corporations, has to have a great deal of impact on Canadian political policy as far as being an independent nation is concerned. It also affects our trade in a real way. We have already pointed out that certain shipments of flour to Cuba were stopped because they violated the trading with the enemy act. The flour was to come from a subsidiary of a United States corporation. I have men-

[Mr. Nystrom.]

tioned potash in my constituency where we have United States potash firms. Perhaps we could be selling potash to China and other countries within the Communist bloc, but this might violate the trading with the enemy act. There was the question of shipping trucks to China a few years ago. This had to be stopped because it violated the same American law.

I suggest that the laws of the United States should have no effect on the trade policy of this country. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Osler) can make light of the subject if he likes.

Mr. Osler: I was not making light of the subject. I was making light of the way the hon. member was dealing with it.

Mr. Nystrom: Maybe he has some Canadians in his constituency who are better off than those elsewhere. I am concerned with Joe Citizen out there in Saskatchewan, the farmer, the worker, the small businessman who is not benefiting—

Mr. Pepin: Amen.

Mr. Nystrom: —who is not benefiting from a policy which gives handouts to large foreign-owned companies. I would refer the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre to the hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans) who could, maybe, give him a little political education. As was mentioned by my leader, and by the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland), we do have the funds in this country, we do have the technology, we do have the educated people, to enable us over a period of a certain number of years to repatriate the economy. It is not a simple task and there are many difficulties in the way, but we ought to make a start. There are many avenues open to us. Our party believes there should be more public investment in the economy. I do not think we should leave everything to the huge, private multinational corporations. There should be more public investment in this country through the CDC.

Another area which would help us repatriate the economy would be to change our taxation policy. Our taxation policy favours foreign extractive industries at the expense of the average guy or the expense of the small businessman in this country. We give huge incentives to the oil companies, the gas companies and the mining companies and these companies are all capital intensive in nature. They do not employ many Canadians. They are almost totally foreign owned. Then, we tax the manufacturing companies and the small businessmen.

Mr. Osler: Have you seen the last tax bill?

Mr. Nystrom: If the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre wants to make a speech later, he can get up and speak on behalf of the multinational corporations and his friends.

An hon. Member: Cheap politics.

Mr. Nystrom: In the last 10 years the mining companies were taxed on only 13 per cent of their profits. How does that compare with the small businessmen? Gas and oil companies, which are owned almost entirely by foreign