

Canada Corporations Act

was stopped by outside interests. I say, Mr. Speaker, that this is direct interference with the political life of this country. This picture cannot help but get worse as the economic control of some of the key sectors of our industry accelerates.

• (5:10 p.m.)

There is another aspect of economic control which has worried me for many years. I want to say at this point that I am not anti-American or against any other country in this world. However, I am convinced as a Canadian that it is our duty, regardless of the party to which we belong, to see that we keep Canada a strong, independent nation both economically and politically. As soon as a move is made, whether it be for the control of our resources or of a key sector of our industry, which will upset this independence, it is up to members in the House to speak out against it. They should not only speak out but also take steps which will retain for us for all time the independence which we so proudly proclaim and which the vast majority of Canadians desire to retain. I see the independence of our nation gradually slipping away. I am astounded that more members on the government side of the House have not made very clear their position on this question.

I will refer to my own province of B.C. for a few moments and point to several resource acquisitions by foreign-owned firms which I think are detrimental to British Columbians generally. Before I deal with any specific resource I will speak about a treaty which was signed in the early 1960s—the Columbia River Treaty. It was debated in this House and many hon. members remember the debate which raged for weeks all over Canada. The treaty was signed and the Liberal administration of the day finalized it, together with the province of British Columbia. In effect it gave away the control of one of our great river systems and its water resources.

At the time—I have read the debate and am well acquainted with the story—the Premier of B.C. sold the people of that province on the idea that we were going to get a bonanza in return for the signing of the treaty. The Liberal government, without adequately examining the aspects of the treaty, went along with it and, to their discredit, finally agreed to signing the treaty, which in my opinion has done a great deal of harm not only to the people of B.C. but to all Canada.

[Mr. Harding.]

I should like to outline two or three points in this respect. In my opinion this is how resources are given away without proper thought or research. Consider the case of the Columbia River Treaty. It was signed, sealed and delivered. The dams have been built. The last dam is in the process of being built and is to be finished in 1973. What do we in B.C. get out of this? Where is the economic empire that we were promised would result from the development of the Columbia River? Where is the economic development, after we have spent hundreds of millions of dollars? I will tell you. There are not even 20 jobs on the Arrow dam, and on the Duncan dam just a handful of engineers are employed to lower or raise the gates in order to feed the turbines south of the line. We sold our power in B.C. for 30 years for \$274 million. We were told that this money would build the dams, clear the reservoir basins and adequately recompense everyone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I have been listening to his remarks very carefully and I am having difficulty in reconciling them with the subject matter before the House. I realize that there is a specific principle involved, and I do not want to infringe upon the hon. member's right to deal with the principle. However, I would be happy if he would deal with an example that falls within the purview of the bill, rather than the specific example with which he is now dealing.

Mr. Harding: The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that in this bill we should guard against the allocation to foreign countries of specific resources either through treaties of this nature or through the alienation of a particular resource in a province. These precautions have not been taken, and as a result the economic development of Canada has suffered.

If you will bear with me for a moment or two, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out how this policy has affected our area in particular. We have sold the power for 30 years. We will end up over \$200 million in the hole, money which must eventually come out of the pockets of the taxpayers of B.C. And where is the economic development that was promised us? It is south of the line. Just south of the border a very large number of aluminum plants are operating on the hydro power which we sold so that we could construct the dams to flood our land. Those plants are