

We have been asking for this Bill for years. It should have been introduced seven or eight years ago, because that is when the horror stories about these Crown corporations were told. For example, in 1976 and 1977 we began hearing about Canadair being on a disaster course. All we heard from the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien), who was the Minister in charge of Canadair at that time, was that its situation was never better and that sales were picking up. He said that we should not be raising questions about Canadair and that the Challenger was the greatest aircraft ever built. We could not convince the Government at that time that Canadair was heading toward a disaster course. All we got was a sales pitch in the House of Commons. That has cost us billions of dollars.

We do not want to see Canadair or de Havilland fold. Those Crown corporations should be developing new products. Yet they struggle with a product which they are having great difficulty selling.

When Ford developed the Edsel automobile, its sales were acceptable for a period of time. However, when it became evident that the public was not interested in buying it, Ford stopped making the Edsel and developed a new product that could sell. What the Government should be doing with respect to these Crown corporations is finding some Lee Iacocca to run them instead of Liberal rejects, has-beens and failures. The Government does not recruit the proper people to run these Crown corporations. That is why we will not rubber-stamp its legislation and will continue to put up speaker after speaker in order to get the point across.

We have always given constructive criticism. My friend from Red Deer gave excellent examples of what is happening with Crown corporations out west and how they are affecting the farmers. That does not constitute obstruction. When the Government introduces substantial legislation which includes a sound directive appointing the Auditor General to conduct a thorough and proper inspection of all those Crown corporations, then it will get our support. If it were a good Bill it would be difficult to argue against it day after day. We simply do not trust the Government. We will not rubber-stamp any more of its weak legislation.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to make some general comments. We are debating closure on an important Bill dealing with Crown corporations. The Canadian public should know that the Conservatives have helped to make the words "public enterprise" a dirty word. There have been ten years of Conservative and business propaganda about this issue. Let there be no doubt that if the Conservatives become the government they will do what Bill Bennett did in British Columbia and we will see all Canadians suffer the kind of pain that the working people in British Columbia are experiencing. They will try to sell the Crown corporations.

Mr. McKenzie: Who will buy them?

Time Allocation

Mr. Waddell: My friend asks who will buy them. It depends on which Crown corporation you are talking about. There are some very healthy Crown corporations.

I want to comment generally on why this Bill is important and should be debated. I heard a Liberal member say that there have been many speakers and the debate has been just repetitive. I believe that this Bill and the one concerning the CDIC need to be debated because their importance is not fully understood. I do not believe that the press and some members of the public have realized the importance of these Bills. Very competent people like Joel Bell, Maurice Strong and Senator Jack Austin, the elite group, are really running the wheels of the country for the Liberal Government. That deserves some consideration.

I suggest that we have seen a breakdown of Keynesianism which social democrats, Liberals and some Conservatives had embraced. It has been replaced by individual resignation, a feeling that one cannot do anything, that one is alienated and that therefore one should just forget about it. It has also been replaced by a new neo-Conservatism. I must admit that one of the vibrant forces in debate today is neo-Conservatism. The left which I represent must take part in this kind of debate. That is why this debate is important. Ironically enough, I do not know whether we are seeing its collapse, but certainly the capitalist system in North America is in deep trouble. We are not getting a full growth economy, but we are getting high rates of unemployment. Yet you cannot advocate expansion of the welfare state any more because people, and I think there may be some truth to it, see that the modern state is out of control, centralist, bureaucratic and elitist. We need a different way of approaching the modern state, which means a different way of approaching Crown corporations. We need popular control over the state and over capital. We need to create in these Crown corporations some democratic socialist institutions.

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We should be talking about worker ownership and participation. The most radical people in this country talking about these new ideas are the Catholic bishops. They talk about labour being a priority. We on the left talk about its being equal. We should be talking about worker ownership and decentralizing Crown corporations. We should be talking about accountability in different ways such as the ways American committees examine their legislation and keep the Government accountable. We should be talking about new types of boards of directors, not just Liberal hacks or even very competent career bureaucrats on the board. We should be opening them up to native people and women. We should be opening up hydro boards to environmentalists. But we have just one kind of person running the Crown corporations, so is it any wonder that they have become so far removed from the people and their representatives in Parliament?

We should be giving the Crown corporations a mandate and then assessing how they live up to it. Then you would not have things like Canadair and de Havilland happening. All these