

Foreign Investment Review

the characteristics of foreign investment and of ways to absorb technological resources.

I will simply say that this has been the position taken by the New Democratic Party since its foundation. We have emphasized that it is impossible in modern conditions for a country to be politically self-reliant if it continues to be an economic dependency of a powerful neighbour, as is rapidly becoming the case as far as Canada is concerned.

The President of Mexico, a little further on in his address, said something which I also consider to be of great value and importance when he stated:

Within a framework of independence we shall accept and use technology in so far as it adjusts to the aims of our economic policy. We shall try to eliminate practices or stipulations which limit our exports, prevent the development of our own technology, make production more expensive or hinder our autonomous development. In short, we want technology to be an instrument of progress, not of subjection.

Nothing could be more relevant to this discussion. I subscribe to that comment without reservation. It is an eloquent statement of the position which my hon. friends and I have presented to the people of Canada for many years. Canadian governments and business leaders in this country have in the past made a fetish of economic growth for its own sake, without considering the quality of that growth or what it held for the future of Canada and what it did to the lives of Canadians in the process of the exploitation of their resources. The result is that we have a branch plant manufacturing industry which is not as efficient as it should be, one which is not as rationalized or as specialized as it should be to meet world competition. Second, there is little research done in Canada. Business leaders and governments have relied on foreign-owned corporations to carry out research elsewhere because it was cheaper to do so in that fashion than to be concerned with the skills and talents of scientists and others in this country and the future of Canada in a technological world.

In the resource industries, we have permitted these multinational corporations to ship out not merely Canadian resources but Canadian jobs, because we have allowed them to make use of our raw materials with little processing or refining or development done in this country. We ship out raw materials and later we buy back the finished product made from those materials in the United States or elsewhere. This is the way to the exhaustion of our natural resources without benefit to the people of Canada. It is not the way of a country which is proud, self-reliant and determined to define its own future.

Indeed, as I pointed out in great detail during the last election campaign, we have developed a taxation system deliberately designed to make it possible for multinational corporations to exploit our resources, and concentrate economic development particularly in the acquisition of massive investments in oil, energy and mineral products rather than in the manufacturing and service industries which provide Canada with the jobs that are needed. I say that this development, encouraged by Liberal and Conservative governments, as well as by the leaders of business in Canada—all continentalists, no matter how much they may deny it—has left Canada at the mercy of multinational corporations. This applies particularly in the sphere of exports where these corporations divide up world export

markets. Canadian governments have helped this process. I refer, for instance, to the agreement by the Conservative party in the early sixties to divide Canada into two oil markets, one for the distribution of Canadian oil from the west and the other, east of the Ottawa River, for the sale of oil imported by the very international corporations which exploit our western reserves—oil imported from Venezuela and other countries. We have deliberately adopted policies designed to encourage this division of Canada, policies which have worked to the advantage of multinational corporations and to the disadvantage of the people of Canada.

Figures have already been placed on record in *Hansard*. Let me put a few further figures on record, because they are so revealing. The fact is that foreign control of our economy has been increasing steadily, particularly in the area of the resource industries. It has not been reduced in any sector. It has been increasing steadily year by year. Note these figures for the year 1969. They are updated from the figures in the Gray report which were based on 1968 statistics. In metal-mining 55.5 per cent is foreign-owned. The point I wish to make here is that this 55.5 per cent represents an increase from 38.5 per cent in 1965. In only four years or so, from 1965 to 1969, there was an increase amounting to about 75 per cent in the foreign control of our metal-mining industry. Control of fuels in 1969 amounted to 82.5 per cent. The figure for rubber products was 92.7 per cent—it could not increase any more. In the wood industry, the figure was 42.6 per cent, increased from 28.2 per cent in 1965.

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Similarly, in 1969 the printing and publishing sector became 20.4 per cent foreign controlled, an increase from 11.3 per cent in 1965. In the machinery sector foreign control amounted to 73.2 per cent, transportation equipment 86.4 per cent, and in petroleum and coal a staggering 99.5 per cent. Almost all of our resources are controlled by foreign multinational corporations. In chemicals and chemical products, foreign control was 80.4 per cent and in manufacturing as a whole, 57 per cent. This was the extent to which Canadian industry in 1969 was controlled by these powerful multinational corporations.

I want to underline, in connection with these statistical facts, that the picture becomes even more frightening when you examine the situation in terms of size of these corporations to see which corporations have the real levers of control in the economy. Let us see to what extent they are Canadian controlled and to what extent they are foreign controlled.

Looking at all corporations in Canada in terms of size of assets, you find that corporations with assets of less than \$1 million are only 9 per cent foreign controlled, 91 per cent being Canadian controlled. But corporations with assets from \$1 million to \$5 million are 29 per cent foreign controlled; corporations with assets from \$5 million to \$25 million are 50 per cent foreign controlled; and corporations with assets of over \$25 million are 54 per cent foreign controlled. So you see that the larger the corporation, the greater its power over the economy, and the larger the proportion of foreign control in that particular sector of the industry.

[Mr. Lewis.]