

*Natural Resources—Development*

have been made before by provincial governments and ways and means have been found whereby the federal government, if necessary, could step in and control the matter. I remember an instance a year or so ago when our friends to our extreme left in the Social Credit party were extremely energetic in discussing the control of a river in British Columbia which they said came within the scope of the province.

It only took this parliament about five seconds, under the direction of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to introduce a bill which took control of the river away from the province, or purported to do so, and brought it within the federal arena. I think uranium is a natural resource which comes within the scope of the provinces, but uranium seems to be fairly well controlled by the dominion government.

One could go on and on but frankly, Mr. Speaker, I hope the pessimism shown by the hon. member for Cape Breton South is only temporary, because we enjoy his optimism. We would regret feeling that time has rolled on so rapidly there is nothing that can be done in this world to alleviate the conditions which he admits are bad and about which he says it is now impossible for anyone to do anything.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, is a most important one. I have been out of the house, frankly, as some hon. members know, for the last few days. I have been in the east, in my own constituency and in the maritimes generally. I would say there are two questions which are of vital concern to the people of that portion of Canada today. The first is our external affairs and the situation which has developed in that connection vis-à-vis the relationship of Canada, the United States and the commonwealth. This is not the time nor the place to discuss that, but because of that perhaps the feeling, emotional or otherwise, has been greater about the second question. I found more interest and more concern about the control of Canadian corporations and Canadian natural resources by United States interests than I have ever experienced before. There is an atmosphere in connection with this matter today which is much more intense, I think, than perhaps the members of the government realize or, frankly, than I realized until I talked with many people of all political parties who were concerned with these two matters.

Let us not have any foolish statements in this respect, Mr. Speaker, about the Conservative party being opposed to the importation of United States capital. It is not; it welcomes it. We realize that United States capital has played an important part in the

development of this country. We welcome United States capital at any time. However, it is one thing to welcome United States capital and it is another to witness a situation developing whereby we might become the economic vassal or economic satellite of United States interests.

Now, that is not Conservative propaganda. It is suggested that this matter was discussed some years ago. As the hon. member for Cape Breton South said, there is no point in one person trying to take credit for introducing this prior to another person. I do not know when it was first discussed in this house. I know it has been discussed many times during the years I have been here, with some intensification during the last three or four years. I have heard it suggested that this is narrow, Tory propaganda. They go back to these old clichés about no truck or trade with the Yankees, and so forth and so on, all of which is sheer nonsense. At least now we do not have to stand at the same time as our own lawyers and our own witnesses arguing our own case, because we can call many witnesses.

We can call, for instance—perhaps they will say they are associates of the Conservative party, but I think they are now mostly associates of the hon. gentlemen on the other side—the bank presidents of this country, who in their annual statements have worried about this situation and have deplored it. We can call the Minister of Trade and Commerce himself, and quote the speech to which the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra referred this afternoon. Of course we can call the Gordon commission, but I am not sure whether or not that should be quoted to hon. gentlemen opposite. At least, this was the bible on which they were going to run the next election, and they are going to have a hard job running away from some of the things contained therein.

The Gordon commission very carefully, of course, as a royal commission should and as able, intelligent men would, does not come out with any flagrantly violent statement, but if you read the report you will find they are rather concerned about this matter. They deal with questions reflecting on the control of Canadian corporations by United States interests. Then the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra spoiled the only speech I was going to make tonight by reporting to the members of the house this report from the Empire Trust Company. It is a rather amazing document, Mr. Speaker. Here you have a United States corporation, one of the wealthiest trust companies and financial organizations in the United States,