

*Private Bills*

I believe I have said enough about this matter to outline to the house the point I am making in the discussion of this bill. In conclusion I suggest that what we have to do is to see to it that extensions of foreign-owned insurance companies in this country are discouraged unless they are prepared to vest at least 50 per cent of their ownership with the Canadian people. If that were the case, when legislation such as this was brought before the house I think the members of this party would be much more prepared to support a plea for incorporation.

**Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to carry on with the trend of thought pursued by my colleague. So far as Canadian ownership of insurance companies is concerned, I am sure that the hon. member for St. Paul's (Mr. Wahn), who introduced this bill in the house, must feel a little ashamed when day after day he reads in the newspapers that individual companies incorporated in Canada or companies that are supposed to be good corporate citizens are not even attempting to concern themselves about Canada generally, or even to concern themselves about recognizing the laws of the land. I am sure it is only right that I should refer specifically to an analogy that I think is most pertinent in this particular case. May I refer to a Headline in today's *Globe and Mail* which reads: "Cuba To Buy Flour Worth \$29 Million."

• (5:20 p.m.)

I draw to the attention of the hon. member sponsoring the bill that in the case of flour mills we have a situation that is analogous to that of insurance companies in this country. Many of our insurance companies and flour mills are controlled by United States interests. The article I have before me says that Canada sold \$22 million worth of flour to Cuba. Actually, the sale was to the Soviet Union but the flour is to go to Cuba. The article says that the main mills involved are Ogilvie Flour Mills of Montreal and Maple Leaf Mills of Toronto. The order was divided among Canadian mills, each of which is to supply a share. The significant words in the article are these, and I invite the hon. member to pay attention. It says that not participating in the sale to Cuba were Canadian flour mills owned or controlled by United States interests. Those foreign controlled mills were prevented from selling to Cuba because of the provisions of the United States trading with the enemy act. The article ends by saying that 1969 sales are equivalent to about 15 million bushels of wheat.

May I also remind the hon. member for St. Paul's of what has been happening to another Canadian company, Robin Hood Flour Mills. That company is controlled by United States interests and in Moose Jaw a mill of that company was closed, resulting in lost employment for many people of the area. The Robin Hood Company is talking of closing other mills across Canada, largely because it is prevented from selling wheat to some countries by virtue of United States regulations governing its parent in the United States. Surely a company in this country should not be affected by regulations passed in another country, and here I refer specifically to the United States trading with the enemy act. Robin Hood, which is dominated by Minneapolis Milling, may have to close many Canadian mills, to the great humiliation of Canada.

The same sort of argument applies to foreign dominated insurance companies. We want to see insurance companies in this country which are owned by Canadians. We do not want to see in the case of insurance companies the situation that applies to companies such as International Petroleum, owned by Standard Oil of New Jersey. I use International Petroleum as an analogy because although it is United States owned its head office is in Toronto. Recent publications show that Canada's name is mud in Peru, largely because of the actions of this company which has its head office in Toronto.

Returning to the other part of the analogy, the insurance companies, I submit that we should not have in this country insurance companies which are subsidiaries of parent companies in the United States. I therefore suggest to the hon. member who is sponsoring this bill that he withdraw it from the order paper. Considering the lost wheat sales that affect our western farmers and considering the bad name International Petroleum has given Canada, I submit that the hon. member ought to consider withdrawing this bill from the order paper.

If an insurance company wants to do business in this country it ought to make sure that any bill to incorporate it includes a clause saying that the company is Canadian owned or very shortly after incorporation will become Canadian owned. When a bill like that came before the house recently it was passed and the members of this party did not object to it. But unless there is such a clause in such bills to incorporate this party will oppose these applications. I think we owe that to the Canadian people. I therefore suggest that hon. members sponsoring bills like the