

Canada Development Corporation

Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) would be prepared to say that if we should run a 48-inch or a 60-inch line to carry both oil and gas, this would even do something for Edmonton. I am pleased that some of my colleagues now think this might not be such a bad idea and are making a noise in that direction. I am pleased to know that the noises are being made by people who are not the least enamoured of nationalized industry. Those that have opposed nationalization have probably frightened away more people than enough. I say, however, that if the government decided to put money into the Canada Development Corporation for the benefit of industry, and provide equity, that pipeline could be built and much of the disaster that may befall generations to come could be eliminated by an expenditure made in one year.

I do not know whether the government intends to make any changes in respect of the Canada Development Corporation. They talk about their willingness to give \$100-odd to the old age pensioner. Really, they will not give it to him but will do a number of things, and if he meets a number of requirements he might get the money. Perhaps it will be the same in respect of the Canada Development Corporation. Perhaps if a number of conditions are met and circumstances develop in a satisfactory way, some of the things suggested may be done. Surely there are enough members in this House who would like to see an agency established which would have sufficient money to provide for the direction of development of our nation, rather than merely helping some of our industries higgledy-piggledy.

Some time ago I was surprised to hear a woman from one of the universities talking about the mid-Canada corridor. She said she had to get her point of view across because the government was going to participate in Rohmer's scheme in respect of the mid-Canada corridor. I was very surprised because I wondered how the government could participate without taking it over. Would they give somebody else the money to do it, and give the land that would be necessary to establish the mid-Canada corridor project to somebody else? How would it be done? I think if members would look at the Canada Development Corporation bill they would see one way in which it could be done in order to provide maximum benefit to the Canadian public.

I do not believe we should have anything less than an agency which would have the ability to provide the wherewithal either on a direct participation basis or totally in the development stage in respect of industries in the resource areas of this nation, for the greatest benefit of the largest number of Canadians. I think this is a serious enough matter that the government should accept the amendment and take back this bill for reconsideration.

The other night the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) listened to many members from both sides of this House speaking about whether it is worthwhile to investigate and implement methods that would guarantee the retention of Home Oil in Canadian hands. Although the minister expressed surprise, I believe most members would agree that Canadians in general are not so concerned about buying back Canada

[Mr. Peters.]

as in changing the direction in which the future of the country will go. In order to make that change there must be a totally different orientation in the development of our resource areas. This change can come only through large infusions of money from the Canadian public, and this must be done through the Canada Development Corporation if it is to be national in scope and provide the greatest possible benefit to the largest number of Canadians.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, for the past 12 years I have recommended something along the lines proposed in the bill. I do not want to join those who say that we should nationalize everything, because that concept is 60 or 70 years out of date. This is the era of the multinational corporation and we have fallen behind in that we have not kept up with our competitors in world trade. All that I hope the CDC will do at present is initiate a new look and to set up a research team of experts, not well-meaning, wishful-thinking people but people who know as much about world trade as do the Japanese, the West Germans or our neighbours to the south. That is leaving out the Russian bloc about which I know very little. These three blocs at least have done their homework, but we have fallen behind.

I cannot see any sense in putting a vast amount of money such as \$250 million or ten times that amount into the Canada Development Corporation unless we know the direction in which we are going and unless we have markets in view, because we are after world trade. I think it is putting the cart before the horse to start setting up a company, selling its shares and asking the Canadian taxpayer to underwrite the initial cost unless we have well thought-out plans telling us in which direction we should go. It is almost too late now. The fact is that at the present time we are no longer masters of our own house. Such markets as we have are largely controlled by multinational corporations. At present their headquarters are not in Canada but in one of the three blocs I mentioned—the European bloc, the American bloc or the Japanese-Asiatic bloc.

Unless I miss my guess, the entry of Britain into the Common Market will cut off one more outlet for Canadian goods. Britain has been forced to join one of these international power blocs. That is what the Common Market is—nothing more nor less than the complete integration of customs, trade and manufacturing as well as, unfortunately for Canada, the agricultural industry. All this is in one big basket.

To the south of us there are 200 million people, well organized, in a self-sustaining economy, and the strides they have made in the last 25 years have staggered the western world. It has not been an accident. We cannot blame the Almighty for deserting us in our hour of need. The Japanese also have gone to work. They sent a team of experts to Canada and found out that Canadians by and large love cameras. What did they do? They put competition out of business so far as cameras and camera equipment are concerned. They did the necessary research and now they have the market. Once one has a