

I am glad to quote the Toronto *Daily Star* because it has so often supported the Prime Minister. Possibly hon. members opposite did not catch what I said. I will be glad to repeat it.

Mr. Trudeau has now abdicated from that leadership role and he cuts a poor figure, as a man whose government was elected to defend Canadian federalism, when he invites provinces to take the lead on what is clearly a matter of national scope and importance.

There is another report of a parliamentary committee which has been completely ignored by the government. It is the report of the Joint Senate and House of Commons Committee on the Constitution. As hon. members well know, this all party committee travelled all the way across Canada and received submissions from many experts and witnesses in every section of the country. I want to quote one of its recommendations, No. 103, which reads:

The power of the federal parliament with respect to aliens should be clarified to ensure that parliament has paramount power to deal with problems of foreign ownership.

I want to read part of the body of that report because it is very relevant to this whole debate.

Throughout the hearings of the committee there was a recurring concern for Canadian independence, sovereignty, unity and identity. Certain witnesses expressed their alarm over the large percentage of Canadian land, resources and industry owned by non-Canadians and especially by Americans. They referred to our recreation land, our mining, oil and gas industries, our publishing and text-book industries, etc. It was established that American investment is 80 per cent of the total foreign investment in Canada and that 76 per cent of all companies in Canada with assets over \$25 million are foreign owned. Fears were expressed that Canadian citizens might lose political as well as economic control of their own country; that they would be barred from the best jobs and the best land; that they would be run by absentee landlords; and that Canadian people and resources would be working for the enrichment of other peoples and other lands.

This concern over the economic domination of our country can be closely related to other concerns expressed before the committee, such as the lack of national unity and a vigorous national purpose, the tendency to regionalism, the proliferation of hyphenated Canadians who cling to the nationality or symbols of their mother countries, misunderstanding and differences between French speaking and English speaking Canadians, old and new Canadians, older and younger Canadians, native born Canadians and immigrants. As a multicultural country it is all the more important for Canada to insist on a substratum of national unity. Unless Canadians do develop a definite solidarity among themselves and a conscious attachment to their country, territory and resources, they will not be able to deal with the threat of foreign economic domination and may not survive as a nation. There must be not only a regional solidarity and attachment, but a national one. All Canadians must consider themselves undivided owners of all Canadian territory and partners or trustees in its management. There should be no second-class citizens and all must feel at home in every part of the land. To develop a positive nationalism we must know more about our country and each other. We must take more interest in our history, our music, our arts, our national institutions and associations. On our success in these things our independence, our sovereignty and our unity will depend. We shall become "masters of our own house" in Canada.

• (1750)

Mr. Pepin: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, these are the words of an all-party committee which agreed upon them, so they have relevance to this debate. How can we have that unity if we throw away the control of our resources and give them into alien hands? The committee points out that the

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constitutional right to deal with the subject of foreign ownership may perhaps be uncertain. However, section 91 of the British North America Act gives exclusive control over aliens. It is my own conviction that this paramount power of the federal government gives basic responsibility for dealing with the problem of foreign ownership to the federal Parliament. I am not suggesting that the federal Parliament should interfere in questions of property and civil rights without consultation with the provinces, but I am suggesting that the obligation of leadership in this field to prevent alien domination clearly lies, under our present constitution, with the federal government. The abdication of the Prime Minister and his government in this field not only indicates a lack of leadership, it presents a threat to the unity of Canada. What hope is there of maintaining the unity of Canada if we are not going to be masters of our own house and if our independence and sovereignty are eroded by alien control?

There are many reasons for my belief that in the forthcoming election this government will suffer a resounding defeat. There can be no better reason than this feeble response to the grave threat to Canada's existence as a nation represented by this proposal to deal with foreign ownership of the Canadian economy. If Canadians desire to encourage continentalism and be absorbed by our neighbours in all but form, they will support this measure and this government. I believe, however, that Canada's independence can only be assured if this government is defeated, and a government capable of protecting Canada elected in its place.

[*Translation*]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, the very fact that we have to discuss foreign investment in Canada, in particular American ones, indicates that we have problems to which we have not found yet real solutions, because we do not try to make a profitable and efficient analysis of the causes of such problems.

We shall never settle this foreign investment problem by passing ordinary or timid legislation, nor without dealing with the genuine causes of the problem.

I find it curious to see the hon. minister, as well as many of his colleagues, come and tell us the same old story namely that we need foreign investments and that we are helpless without them.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, this is giving us very little importance and annihilating our own potential. In effect, as long as we judge financial problems on the basis of prejudices such as, for instance, believing that it is impossible today for a country such as ours to grow and live adequately without being alienated by American high finance, we will be going the wrong way.

We should simply destroy this prejudice. We should stop entertaining it because—as I have said repeatedly in the House—what matters for any individual, wherever he lives, it is to be able to buy the consumer goods he needs to live adequately.

In such a rich country as Canada which has the potential required to provide food, clothing and shelter to the whole population without outside help, it is stupid to talk about the absolute need for foreign capital. We only have