

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If there are no further questions or comments, we will resume debate with the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart).

Mr. Ron Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker I welcome this opportunity to join in the debate on this important piece of legislation to all Canadians, namely Bill C-15. Unlike the comments of my colleague across the way, in my view this legislation heralds a significant change in the direction in which this country has been heading over the past 15 years. On September 4 Canadians sent out a message loud and clear that they wanted change. This Bill evokes change. That message could not have been made more strongly. On September 17 the process of this change began when our new Government assumed office. Since then we have had a Throne Speech and an economic statement which charted Canada's new course. Now we have Bill C-15, the first new piece of legislation by the new Government that will halt, as I love to call it, that slippery slide to socialism which those gentlemen know so well.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stewart: That is the notion which the Liberals put into effect some 16 years ago with their sleeping buddies beside them.

Mr. McDermid: The socialist hordes.

Mr. Stewart: That is right.

Mr. Rodriguez: Tell us about B.C. today.

Mr. Stewart: Nothing symbolized the socialist policies of the previous Government more than the National Energy Program and the Foreign Investment Review Agency. Today we are beginning a process of making a break from those policies of the past that have bankrupted this great nation and placed 1.5 million people on the dole.

It is very interesting to note the comments of the opposition Members, the socialists in particular, who have spoken out so loudly against this constructive and positive piece of legislation. I noted in particular the comments of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Essex Windsor (Mr. Langdon), who just left the Chamber and who in the past few weeks has been so critical of the deal approved by FIRA which will result in the loss of 600 jobs in the city of Barrie. That is my riding, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Orlikow: Aren't you worried about it?

Mr. Stewart: I am very worried about it.

An Hon. Member: What are you going to do?

Mr. Stewart: Listen and you will learn.

I have searched long and hard for the logic in this argument and I can say I have found none. In his criticism of Bill C-15, he said that the end result would be a loss of jobs for Canadians. In his defence of FIRA he implied that FIRA

would protect those jobs. I should like to quote from his remarks of December 11, 1984 when he said:

● (1600)

—under this Bill, Black and Decker would have been completely free of any review when the take-over occurred . . . they would have had complete freedom to shut down that subsidiary without any negotiation process, without any help for the workers involved, without any negotiation with the community and without any review mechanism by the Government of Canada. That kind of economic nonsense will damage communities across this country one by one over the next 10 years, if this Bill goes into effect.

The scenario described by the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor is exactly what has happened in Barrie under FIRA. That is the type of economic nonsense, as he called it, which has been allowed to happen with the blessing of FIRA. Does the Member want this kind of economic nonsense to continue? Does he support FIRA or does he not? Does he want change or does he not? The Hon. Member did not say, but the inconsistencies in his argument were clear because 92 per cent of the cases which came before FIRA were approved at a cost of some \$6,000 each. As a result of the work of the entire Cabinet in making those tremendous decisions, only 8 per cent were turned down. One of the ones which should have been turned down was the Barrie plant. Did they do it? Not on your "pooh-whippy", they didn't.

Mr. Johnston: How do you spell that?

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Translation.

Mr. Stewart: Right now there is every reason to believe that that agreement in front of FIRA was defaulted by Black and Decker. Did FIRA catch it? Did FIRA say, "No, you cannot close the Barrie plant because you did not live up to the obligations under your contract"? No, not one word have we heard from FIRA. Ostensibly that plant is to be closed, but perhaps not, and it will not be as a result of anything done by FIRA. Believe me, they sat and watched the whole degenerative process. Out of the whole thing, all they ever look at was only 8 per cent. One of the ones at which they should have taken a shot, they let go by the boards. I do not think that says anything good whatsoever about FIRA.

I believe the vast majority of Canadians support the initiatives of the new Government, particularly the goals which Bill C-15 will achieve. During the election campaign the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made it clear to all Canadians that new infusions of capital were necessary if we were to revitalize the economy and allow it to create—the one thing he said which Hon. Members opposite keep throwing at us—jobs, jobs, jobs. But, how do we get those jobs, jobs, jobs? We must have somebody who will spend some money here. This country stretches 5,000 miles from sea to sea and it has a measly 25 million people. We do not have a domestic market which is sufficient to do the silly things which the former speaker mentioned. We must export. We are a great exporting nation. To export, we must have capital which builds buildings and machines and sells products. Not one doggone thing in the world happens until one sells something.