

the leaders of new investment in Canada. As it happened, but for FIRA, we would not have had that opportunity. But for FIRA, the persons who controlled Husky were in the process of turning over the ownership control by private agreement to an American oil company that would have assumed that control before we had a chance to do anything about it. The FIRA process did give NOVA a few days' time to get talking to our bankers and get in there and compete. And in the competition we beat the American company and won.

I believe it is very useful to remember that, especially in the case of Canadian Porcelain which was forced into receivership by Lapp Industries because of its dumping into the Canadian market. I say "dumping", because Lapp Industries was convicted on January 9 of this year of dumping porcelain into Canada at an unfair price. The employees of Lapp Industries have put together a co-operative approach and have raised \$1.3 million as a bid on the company, which has been presented to the trustee, Peat Marwick. Lo and behold, on the same day that the \$1.3 million bid was made, the United States company bid for less money.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired. I will recognize the Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mrs. Mailly) on debate.

Mrs. Claudy Maily (Gatineau): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say that I am pleased to speak on this Bill in support of the Government's position. However, before I speak on the specific clauses which we are debating, I would like to comment on what the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) said about the Domtar situation. I would like to correct the record. A subsidy was not cancelled. A subsidy was requested by the company which was not granted. There is quite a difference between a request for a subsidy which is not granted and one which is cancelled. The Hon. Member may know something about promises which were made by the previous Government, however, we are not aware of them. The subsidy was not cancelled. It was suggested that if any moneys were requested which were essential to expand or modernize the mill in Windsor, the money would come out of the agreement which was signed by the federal Government and the Government of Quebec. That was the regional expansion agreement which totalled approximately two-thirds of a billion dollars. That agreement works on a fifty-fifty basis. It was signed in December, 1984, after a delay of almost a year during which the previous administration was not able to come to an understanding with the Government of Quebec. But within a few short months, this Government signed the agreement with Quebec. When the subsidy request was received, it was suggested that any money which the Government of Quebec wanted to spend on Domtar could be taken from that fund.

Mr. Lapierre: That's nonsense.

Mrs. Maily: That is exactly what happened. The funds which were allocated, on a fifty-fifty basis, only cover the payment of interest on the moneys which were borrowed to perform the modernization. So the subsidy was not cancelled; it was not accepted. If it had been accepted, it would have been unfair to other Canadian paper companies as we could not have accepted their requests for subsidies. We could not

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play favourites, which is something which the previous Government seemed to do with impunity.

[*Translation*]

I would also like to comment on some of the remarks made by the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Alt-house). According to him, the Government gave short shrift to the representations made by Canadians who appeared before the standing committee that considered the Bill. Well, should he care to study the amendments, he will find out that the Government has proposed quite a few amendments in direct response to suggestions made by Canadian citizens who gave evidence before the standing committee. These are important amendments. Besides, the Bill itself goes a long way towards implementing the recommendations we heard from Canadians while we were in Opposition and since the Bill was under consideration before its introduction in the House.

For example, a number of people expressed concern about the tedious process under the old Foreign Investment Review Act. It took so much time that they often missed out on opportunities to buy a company, or even to keep up with technological progress. As you know, Mr. Speaker, anyone anxious to set up new facilities in high technology industry cannot stand still for very long. The best example of that kind of situation is the case of a company in the town of Buckingham in my riding. It only had a few weeks to act on its option on a high technology patent and it had to move very rapidly to be able to buy some facilities, but it finally got discouraged and decided that perhaps it should start from scratch—in the United States instead of Quebec. We did manage to convince management to be patient and that eventually the climate would be more conducive to that type of investment. I am glad to say today that the company came back, an outstanding corporate citizen who had already invested in Canada and who now has the green light to go ahead with the new plant which will create jobs in a region where unemployment is rampant.

Both the NDP and the Liberal Party have a very negative approach, convinced as they seem to be that no foreign corporate citizen can possibly have the same dedication, the same decorum and the same generosity which are supposed to be the hallmark of Canadian corporate citizens. In my view, it amounts to a kind of discrimination that is repugnant to any civilized person, to think that foreign investors will be reluctant to make a going concern of their businesses. The impression is given that foreign investors are not good managers. If a person invests his money in this country, I imagine he would want his business to be viable and make a profit and give him a return on his investment. If this foreign investor were such a poor manager that he should want to penalize his employees and the community where he has his business and penalize this country by preventing it from opening up markets abroad, in no time at all he would have to close down, and he would have lost his initial investment. It is useless to try to camouflage what is, in effect, an ideology and almost a phobia of foreign