

Since then, a number of commentators have thanked goodness for the existence of that amendment because the figures in the Budget relating to the capital gains exemption and the proposals for the 6 per cent sales tax on materials will do nothing for renters but provide a greater risk for them. We introduced an amendment to provide protection for them.

What is before us is another example of Conservative camouflage. Conservative Members are saying that the economic renewal of Canada will be totally dependent upon the decisions of others who live outside of Canada and are saying that that is the new spirit of entrepreneurship that will exist in Canada. That is a total turn-around. It is the kind of thing that turns the world on its side, such as we have seen with other provisions of the Budget.

All kinds of groups came before the committee including Nova Corporation, McMillan, Binch and the Canadian Labour Congress. They all said that they were seriously concerned, as we move into the new international environment, about the capacity of Canadian companies to produce and respond to new competition, and they felt that that situation had to be corrected.

● (1120)

It is even more ironic if we look at the Budget. The Budget contains one of those grand ironies which we observe from time to time in Parliament. The Government, through its actions on pension benefits, is now offering a three-for-one sale to all pension funds in Canada. In attempting to entice them to invest in small business, the Government took off the lid so that \$30 billion of pension funds can be invested in foreign ownership. That, together with the capital gains exemption, will mean that Canadians can now invest in Florida real estate, Swiss art or Chinese watches. The whole thrust of the Budget encourages an outflow of capital from Canada. Yet, the Minister has told us that the economic renewal will be based on capital which flows into Canada from other countries.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has opened up all kinds of sluice-ways which will ensure that billions of dollars of Canadian capital will pour out of the country. I predict that the net reduction which we have seen in the past two years will be geometrically multiplied over the next two or three years. It is ironic and silly. One part of the Government does not know what the other part is doing. Government members are falling all over themselves and contradicting each other with respect to the economic policy of the Government. There is no central strategy. There is no blueprint. It is a make-work project. The Government is the great critic of make-work projects, but it is the ultimate make-work project. Government members make the economic policy by the seat of their pants. There is absolutely no harmony to it other than the rhetorical flourishes.

However, if we look at the hard economic facts, the Minister of Finance is encouraging capital to leave Canada and the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) thinks that some capital might flow into Canada. At the same time, by the admission of his own officials, the investment

Investment Canada Act

community in New York and other major foreign capitals, we are told that the net increase of new capital coming into Canada will be marginal.

It is no wonder that one of the most influential economic analysts in Canada, Informetrica, has predicted that by 1986 there will be a net loss of 80,000 jobs in Canada. This Government is the great producer of jobs? What the Government is bringing forward is such an economic horror show that it will scare off capital and jobs and leave a number of Canadian workers and communities vulnerable to takeover. Our technology will be stripped from companies and we will lose our ability to have an effective and competitive force in world markets.

Aside from the basic flaw in the economic reasoning of the Government, we object strongly to the way in which the Bill arrogates star chamber powers to the Minister. I defy any Member of this House to come forward with a piece of legislation which concentrates so much power and control in the hands of one Minister without any form of accountability. The Minister does not report to Cabinet, nor does he report to Parliament, yet he will be making decisions which will be worth billions of dollars and will affect every region of Canada without any cognizance except his own.

We saw how correct the Minister was in his flip-flop on the Domtar issue. He had to be soundly slapped down by the Prime Minister, by Members of the Opposition and the Quebec caucus because he had been insensitive to the economic interests of that region. We will find time and time again that the Minister, who has never shown much responsibility for economic development in the regions, will cause the Government incredible problems. I do not mind that. That is the Government's problem.

The amendments which we have tried to introduce would substantially improve the ability of Parliament to deal with these matters, and they would have made this better legislation. With that point, needless to say with the one exception of the amendment which we proposed—which we believed was a positive step forward—we will oppose the legislation.

● (1125)

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, through you to the Hon. Member, I hope he will be the first to agree that economics and getting people back to work was not the long suit of the Government of which he was a Minister. Will the Hon. Member tell the House just where—and I mean this quite sincerely—his economic policies differ from the social democratic economic policies of the people to his left?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, if we could change the rules of Parliament to give me another 20 minutes, I would be glad to comply. The Hon. Member's question gives me an opportunity to clear up some mythology which has been perpetrated recently that somehow this Government, even in its first eight months or nine months in office, has been the great job creator. I would point out to the Hon. Member, because I was the Minister of Employment and Immigration for three years