

The Minister knows how many law abiding low-income Canadians must often wait for years to bring their relatives from overseas to rejoin them in Canada. What action has the Minister taken to stop those abuses that have been reported, to close those loopholes, and to strip citizenship from any who have go it through deceit or abuse?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, clearly I cannot comment on the particular case which is being investigated at this time. When I first took over the Ministry I explained to the reporter in question, among other people, that the monitoring of our programs is very important to me. Entrepreneurs admitted are being monitored by immigration officials so that their business activities can be assessed.

I have expressed the view that I would like to see our monitoring improved. Shortly after taking over the portfolio, I asked that a special advisory committee be set up, and this group will advise us on any need for further monitoring and how it should be done.

MONITORING OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has stated that she has undertaken a review or an evaluation of the monitoring. It has been well known for several years that there is no effective follow up to find out whether these entrepreneurs actually produce the jobs they promised to produce, and for which they received their landing and sometimes their citizenship. It is further known that 70 per cent of those immigrants land and stay in the three largest cities of Canada. Therefore, they make the regional disparities worse rather than improving them, as was the intention of the program.

Will the Minister tell the House what steps she has taken to correct these failures of the program, or is the Minister going to end the program and return the immigration staff to speeding up the family reunification program?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, my Department has established a study of the program, which is nearing completion now, in terms of the follow-up as to what happened to the investors who came to Canada. At some future time I will be in a position to make a report.

As I have said, I have set up an advisory committee in terms of monitoring the program. I have also consulted with my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to ensure that the overseas monitoring of the program is meeting its objectives.

We also have an agreement with the provinces which my predecessor, the Minister of Transport, discussed this winter whereby there will be a greater balance among the regions of Canada in terms of this program.

I want to point out to the Hon. Member one final point. Before there was an entrepreneur or business class, people like

this could come to Canada as independents without any commitment to make any investment at all. I think it is a positive program that we now have them coming to make investments here.

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[Translation]

TRADE

FREE TRADE—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to our excellent Minister for International trade. The Department of Regional Industrial Expansion has published the results of a survey of three-hundred major businesses in Canada. With respect to free trade, these three-hundred major businesses announced they would increase their spending by 25 per cent in 1988.

Mr. Speaker, considering the scare tactics being used by the Liberal-Socialist Coalition, I think it is important for the Minister to comment on what happened in the European Common Market in 1960, when free trade became a fact for 250 million people. There was no problem. Would the Minister explain to Canadians the benefits that ensued when free trade was implemented in Europe?

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for the first relevant, competent, and reasonable question that has been asked today. Indeed, the Department of Industry, Science and Technology has just released a paper on the effect of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement on the Canadian manufacturing industry. The conclusion is that Canadian industry will enjoy unparalleled opportunities for growth and development as a result of the agreement.

In addition, the survey revealed a projected or planned increase of spending and investment by 300 major corporations by 27 per cent this year. It has also been confirmed by OECD that Canada is the industrialized nation where investment will grow fastest in the next few years.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Crosbie: Why should I sit down when we have to listen to the rest of the slander, Mr. Speaker, when I am giving some facts about the investment opportunities as a result of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement?

Mr. Riis: Typical Tory respect for the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: Those last remarks will probably be a triumph of *Hansard* over television. The Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate.