

Investment Canada Act

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rodriguez: It has to be the tie clip, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rossi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi) on a point of order.

Mr. Rossi: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the House that the Hon. Member opposite is using points of order wasting the precious time allowed to the Hon. Member who has the floor. I therefore suggest this should not be taken out of his time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. Speaking of precious time, I recognize the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

[*English*]

Mr. Rodriguez: I hope that this time has not come off my ten minutes, Mr. Speaker. I wish the Hon. Member would get up and make his own speech instead of taking time out of my speech.

Now that the Conservatives are the Government, they are doing exactly the same thing for which they criticized the previous Government.

Mr. Taylor: Baloney!

Mr. Rodriguez: If the Hon. Member wants to make a speech, I don't mind. I will sit down if he wants to make a speech.

Mr. Taylor: Go ahead.

Mr. Rodriguez: I see that we have the Gong Show going on over there today.

What the Conservatives have done, Mr. Speaker, is exactly the same thing that they criticized the former Government for doing. They have suffocated debate. They have refused to accept even one reasoned amendment in committee. I think that is totally shameless. And those Hon. Members are barefaced enough to come and sit in this House of Commons and say, "Yes, that's what we intend to do". Might is right. That is the attitude they have taken, Mr. Speaker. What have those Hon. Members talked about in this House? They say they want to encourage Canadian investment. I want to cite one example of our not even being able to make those companies which operate in this country invest the money they earn from the resources of this country right here in Canada. I give the example of Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd.

Mr. Nunziata: Where is it?

Mr. Rodriguez: It is in Nickel Belt. Falconbridge Nickel Mines in the last few years has laid off 800 workers because Falconbridge claimed it was poor, that it was not doing very well and it had to lay off workers. Ever since that company

came into the Sudbury basin, it has always sent its nickel matte to Norway to be refined. Indeed, I was talking to the former Member of Parliament, the Hon. Stanley Knowles, and he told me that the very first question he asked in this House of Commons in 1939 was put to Mackenzie King—

Mr. Prud'homme: It was 1940. He didn't come in in 1939.

Mr. Rodriguez: In 1940 the Hon. Stanley Knowles asked Mackenzie King about Falconbridge selling its nickel plate from its Norway plant to Nazi Germany at a time when we Canadians were at war with Nazi Germany. Here was a company who was mining its ore in Canada, refining it in Norway and selling the plate nickel to the Nazi navy. In fact, many Canadians lost their lives on the oceans of the world possibly because of ships armed with Canadian nickel plate.

I am happy to see the Hon. Member wearing a Legion pin in his lapel. But here is a company which strikes its breast and says, "We are good Canadians", yet it never established a refinery in the Sudbury basin. Now lo and behold it has an opportunity to go to Botswana to buy nickel, and it is going to ship that nickel matte to Norway to be refined. To do that it has to expand the capacity of the Norwegian plant and it wants to spend \$41.5 million to do so. In the mining Act of Ontario there is a law that says Ontario resources must be refined in Canada. Section 104 of that Act says "except Falconbridge". That corporation was exempted because all the time Falconbridge had good friends in the Tory Party. It had some sort of leverage with the Conservative regime in Ontario and, lo and behold, Falconbridge got its way. It has found \$41.5 million to expand a refinery in Norway to refine Canadian nickel, but is that in the best interests of Canada? Is that creating jobs for Canadians? I suggest to you that it had better learn how to invest in this country, and you do not need an Investment Canada Bill to get the corporation to do it. Not at all. What you need is simply to set out the goals and ground rules and the fact that since it has earned that \$41.5 million on the backs of Canadian workers and from Canadian resources, therefore it should put that \$41.5 million as a down-payment on building a refinery in the Sudbury basin. It is estimated that a new refinery for the Falconbridge operation in the Sudbury basin would cost around \$125 million and the \$41.5 million is a good down-payment.

• (1650)

We Canadians have an investment in Falconbridge. We allowed it to defer over the last two years some \$150 million in taxes. That means it will never pay those taxes. It paid not a penny of corporate income tax last year and it will pay not a penny of corporate income tax this year, yet it has this \$41.5 million.

I am glad to see Members opposite agree with what I am pointing out, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see they have finally come to their senses, and if I am allowed an extension of time we can perhaps persuade all of them to come on board.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order.