

Supply

new parliamentary precedent by which we can accuse all Members of misleading everyone else.

I want to tell the Hon. Member across the way, the Member who just accused me of misleading the House, that I am not misleading the House when I say Members on the Government side have in the past on several occasions been in favour of and wanted to strengthen FIRA. Let me give you an example of this Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart) during the last election campaign was talking about the Black & Decker deal. He said in his riding that FIRA had to be strengthened in order to protect the jobs at Black & Decker. What do we have now? The Minister is destroying FIRA, an agency which a backbench Conservative Member has said was not strong enough and needed to be strengthened. This is enough to cause a backbench revolt of Tories.

Mr. Dick: I doubt it.

• (1250)

Mr. Boudria: I just read about that Hon. Member in the newspaper this morning. I hear him saying that he doubts it. Perhaps he doubts it. Obviously he seems to be saying that he will not participate in such a revolt. However, other members of his caucus have stated publicly that they want FIRA retained and enhanced.

Let us look at the priorities of the Government in the areas of investment and job creation. During the election campaign the Conservatives made promises; in fact they made 338 of them.

Mr. Dick: Do you have a copy?

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps I will hand a copy over to the Hon. Member across the way.

The motion before us today concerns protecting and enhancing Canadian industry, not just allowing foreign takeovers. We want protection. It is correct that we want foreign capital and investment in our country, but we want the best deal for Canadians. That is the difference between a Liberal and a Tory. We want a good deal for Canadians. That is the Liberal position. The Conservative position is, let everybody do whatever they like with no assured benefit for anyone; it does not matter. That is the Tory position, as stated by the Minister himself.

I would like to refer to some of the Conservative promises. This morning we heard the Minister speak against protectionism and such measures. Referring to the textile and apparel industries section of the Tory promises, the first one reads:

Promote fair trade, but not free trade.

Surely that Minister could not have been party to the listing of campaign promises. Perhaps he should review the document which indicates the 338 promises before he makes another speech. Even better, perhaps he should give a copy of it to whoever wrote the speech which he gave this morning. Then his speech-writer would be aware of the promises and would

not write speeches that contradict the positions of the Conservative Party during the last election campaign.

The second promise reads:

Promote stability, through the rigorous enforcement of our existing international rights and obligations, including, if necessary, the establishment of global quotas and a controlled increase of import volumes.

The third promise reads:

Review Canada's existing obligations in order to ascertain whether modification should be pursued.

Everyone who listened to the Conservatives had to put up with the empty promises that were made. They promised Canadians that they would protect and enhance our industries, in particular our textile industries which are so vital and important to the riding I represent.

What is the Government's first priority? Is it to assist small business? I see the Minister of State for Small Businesses across the way. The first objective of the Government is to destroy FIRA, directly contradicting the promises which I just listed. That is the priority of the Government. Why has the Government given itself that mandate?

The Government has spent far too much time on this issue. It has expended far too much energy on destroying FIRA. Also it has concentrated on pleasing the President of the United States by having fanfares in Quebec City which will cost Canadian taxpayers over \$1 million. It has spent so much time and energy doing such things that it has neglected other very important areas.

Also I see the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Andre) sitting across from me. I know he would agree with me if I were to read a letter from the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada. On April 1, 1985, the President of the Association, Mr. Jean-Guy Maheu, wrote a letter to the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Kelleher). He wanted to discuss with that Minister and with other Members of Cabinet issues affecting that industry. We all know how much protection the shoe manufacturing industry needs. In part his letter reads:

In your letter of October 16, 1984, nearly six months ago, you wrote me that "I hope to be in a position to get together with you, representatives of your association and the unions at an early opportunity". We know that as Minister for International Trade you are travelling very much and that you are very busy but we would appreciate an hour of your time in April.

Since October 16, 1984, and at least until April and probably until now, no meeting was held with that group. There was all kinds of time to meet with the President of the United States in Quebec City. There was all kinds of time to genuflect in front of the Americans. However, there was no time to help out industries that are so important to my riding. That is the disgraceful behaviour of the Government.

The Minister of State for Small Businesses cares about small business. He cares about ensuring that these industries are alive and well. I am surprised that he would not have a very quick and fast discussion with his colleague and order him to withdraw Bill C-15 immediately in order to protect the vital Canadian industries I have just described. That is not bound to happen.