

to solve the unemployment problem in this country is through private sector job creation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

MANUFACTURE AND STORAGE OF LETHAL GASES

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. I would like to ask the Minister, one week after the Bhopal tragedy, whether she can assure this House, and all Canadians, that there is no manufacture or storage of lethal gases, including methyl isocyanate, in this country? If she cannot give us that assurance, would the Minister be prepared to produce a map indicating the locations, for the benefit of both municipal and provincial Governments?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, to answer my hon. colleague's question, I would like to point out I already said that the substance responsible for the tragedy in Bhopal is not manufactured in Canada. We do, of course, manufacture thousands of hazardous products.

[English]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET PROVINCIAL COUNTERPARTS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Hon. Minister has answered my question in full. However, in view of the importance of this issue, and the importance of preventive measures for the protection of Canadians at large, would the Minister be willing, before her departure for Europe, to meet with her provincial counterparts and discuss a long list of preventive measures which can only be implemented by the municipal and provincial Governments together?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to meet my provincial counterparts to discuss this matter before I leave for Europe. However, I repeat that I have asked my senior officials to meet with their counterparts in the provincial governments and industry. They are experts in this field and I have asked them to reassess the series of emergency measures we have designed to cope with crisis situations, and I have every confidence in their judgment.

Oral Questions

[English]

FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

RECORD OF FOREIGN OWNED COMPANIES

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Is the Minister aware that Canada has more foreign ownership and control per capita than any other industrialized nation in the world? Does he know that of the top 50 companies in Canada, the greatest number of lost jobs over the past two years was due to U.S. owned companies? Does the Minister also know that in the year 1983 Canada had a deficit of \$9.4 billion in interest and dividend payments primarily due to the United States?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member's question, I would remind him that in much of the period back to 1976 we had our experience and experimentation with FIRA. There has been a net outflow of direct investment in this country, and tens of thousands of Canadians are now jobless today, thanks to that experiment.

AGENCY ELIMINATION—EFFECT ON INVESTMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister care to explain how eliminating FIRA will in any way influence investment in Canada by Canadian companies, which do not have to go through FIRA, if they already exist here, in order to decide whether to invest or not?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, again in answer to the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain, I would remind him that reinvestment of retained earnings by non-Canadian companies in Canada is one of the more positive factors in our country's investment program at the present time. However, we in this Party believe that the over-all amount which is invested in new plant and machinery must go up dramatically if we are to get Canadians back to work.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE—REQUEST FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. It is staggering for the future of our country that people who are researching the continued existence of indigenous animals in our environment, in co-operative research with the United States and the provinces, are being laid off. Will the Minister re-examine these cuts which have decimated the Canadian Wildlife Service?