

Investment Canada Act

whatever, to becoming Members of Parliament, thinking about the people of our communities. How can it help the people of a community working for that small business person to have a company bought out and reduced in size or shut down by an American company, as will become possible under this legislation?

Second, the Hon. Member talked about routine cases, which the change in the threshold level for indirect takeovers will now permit to go through without review. How can it be routine for a plant in a community, such as Black and Decker in Barrie with its 600 workers, to be taken over without review as would have been the case under this new Bill? We have had that confirmed by the FIRA people. How can it be routine to have such an act take place, a plant shutdown and 600 people thrown out of work?

Mrs. Collins: Mr. Speaker, anything is possible. I do not think that in our role as Members of Parliament we are trying to legislate to control our society totally. It is the other way.

First, I am thinking of the community. I am thinking about the people who need jobs and who are not going to get those jobs unless we get new and additional capital investment in Canada. That is who I care about. That is who I want to see prosper. I believe we need help and assistance in attracting the \$1.2 trillion or whatever we need for new investment. I think our new approach is psychological to some extent and will help to create that positive climate.

• (1620)

I also object to the Hon. Member's first comment when he said something about an open season for American investors. To me that has a negative connotation to our American friends. What is wrong with American investors? They are some of our dearest friends. Why should we not welcome their investments? I do not share his view that anyone would invest major capital in this country in order to close something down and basically lose that investment. I just do not think that is the reason people invest. We will see in the future, but I am confident that this is not the pattern we will see.

Mr. Nystrom: I am sure the Hon. Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gustafson) would tell the Hon. Member privately that we have had that theme in our Province of Saskatchewan for over two and a half years. He can tell the Hon. Member that the number of people on welfare has risen by 22 per cent and that the unemployment rate in our province has doubled. Is she aware of this reaction in Saskatchewan? Is she trying to emulate that kind of record? I know it embarrasses to a great degree Hon. Members such as the Hon. Member for Assiniboia.

Mrs. Collins: Mr. Speaker, I am not particularly familiar with the situation in Saskatchewan. However, I can assure the Hon. Member that our approach is to create jobs, to encourage investment and to develop economic growth which is so necessary. Our friends from across the oceans and across the border will assist us in doing so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The period for questions and comments has terminated.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson)—Government Expenditures—Work of review committee. (b) Composition of advisory committee; the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie)—Environmental Affairs—Canadian Wildlife Service—Cancellation of Herring Gull Egg Program. (b) Minister's view; the Hon. Member for Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Vankoughnet)—Penitentiaries—Escape of three inmates from Bath Institution.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INVESTMENT CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Stevens that Bill C-15, an Act respecting investment in Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Regional Development.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to participate in this debate on behalf of my Party. We are not discussing today whether or not Americans are our friends. We already know this. It was very interesting to listen to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Capilano (Mrs. Collins) who seemed to suggest that because Americans are our friends, we must have no laws and we must let them come in and do what they like.

I have friends, but they do not take over my house. When they come to my place, they are guests. They usually behave in such a way that I am still the master of my own house. As Canadians, we are masters of our own country. We should ensure that our laws are such that we continue to be masters of our own destiny. Whether or not Americans are our friends is not the discussion today. We know they are our friends. However, if one is standing beside an elephant and the elephant rolls over on top of one, whether or not it was a friendly elephant, the result is the same—one is flattened like a pan-