

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 29, 1985

The House met at 11 a.m.

• (1105)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INVESTMENT CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Thursday, April 25, consideration of Bill C-15, an Act respecting investment in Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Regional Development; and Motions No. 1 (Mr. Axworthy) and No. 2 (Mr. Langdon) (p. 4001).

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the debate, I had hoped to be in a position to make a ruling today on all the motions, but I will not be able to complete the ruling today. Since there is a chance or it is possible that we might finish the first matters today—I make no judgment as to whether that is likely, just that it is possible—could I therefore indicate to the House what I suggest it do if that should happen.

I have indicated some concerns with Motion No. 3 and I therefore suggest that it cannot be debated. There is in the next grouping one concern raised by the Government House Leader with regard to Motion No. 14. I am not yet in a position to make any comment on Motion No. 14, but I suggest that the House proceed to the grouping which was suggested, that is, Motions Nos. 4 through a series of motions including Motion No. 14, on the understanding that it will be before the House for debate at that time subject to a request for a ruling which I have yet to make. I put it to the House that that is the best way it can continue to debate the matter at the time.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, just for the purposes of clarification, I take it that the next grouping will be Motions Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9, and Your Honour included Motions Nos. 14 and 16.

Mr. Speaker: I included Motions No. 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 as per the grouping I originally indicated to the House, with the caveat that I have been asked to make a ruling on Motion No. 14 and I am not yet in a position to make that ruling. Therefore, I suggest the matter be put to the House on the understanding that, as I am coming forward to make a series of rulings on all the requests I have received, I will be making a ruling at that time and that it be before the House on the

understanding that a ruling is coming as to its admissibility in that group. Is that clear and understood?

Mr. Gauthier: Yes.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate another opportunity to speak on Bill C-15. Of course, the particular motion before the House now is the one regarding the purpose of the Bill. Our Party has an amendment to that motion, which is presently the subject of this debate.

It is particularly important that we make a strong point on this motion in that we have a number of concerns about the position taken by the Government regarding investment in Canada by offshore organizations. I wish to speak about those concerns this morning.

I suppose I could list a number of decisions which the Government has taken in cosyng up to the United States and indicating to that country that Canada is open for sale. That basic relationship, which is being established quickly across the country and around the world by the Government, is being brought to focus in this particular Bill that asks for the opening up of investment in Canada without any rules or regulations, particularly investment in Canada by foreign corporations without any stringent oversight by anyone in Government.

I know that government Members will say that they are changing it slightly but that they will look at the control of investment in Canada. However, that is not the impression they are leaving across the country. It is not the impression government Leaders are leaving with businessmen in other parts of the world or with leaders of other countries. The image they are leaving is that Canada is open for business, that we will allow any kind of investment in Canada from any group or company regardless of whether or not there are benefits to Canada. That is why it is very important that we look at every clause and attempt to ensure that the position in which this Bill puts us with regard to investment in Canada gives us some authority to say, "No, that is not in the interest of Canada and therefore we will turn it down".

• (1110)

The idea that a foreign investor is good under any circumstances, that the U.S. can do no wrong in its relationship with Canada is something that we cannot accept. The idea that foreign control of the economy is not good for Canada should be established in this Bill and should be part of the clause stating its purpose. For example, this Party spent many years questioning the desire of the previous Government to do something about foreign investment because a large portion of