

Mr. Axworthy: —that 94 per cent of foreign investment coming to this country has resulted simply in taking over companies with existing Canadian jobs, not creating new work, not creating new enterprises but existing takeovers. That is why we want to know, when the Prime Minister met with the President and received a request for a broader interpretation of investment rules, why didn't the Prime Minister just say no?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Let us get down to it, Mr. Speaker. When the question of investment is raised, is the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry saying that when a request from an American or foreign company comes to invest \$35 million in Brandon that the answer should be no?

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): A takeover of a Canadian company.

Mr. Mulroney: If the question is for Versatile, a tremendous investment by Americans in western Canada, in Winnipeg, and in Manitoba, should the answer have been no? When the question is in regard to foreign investment in the smaller centres—

Mr. Axworthy: You have not said no yet. You have approved every application. Why don't you reject them? What kind of a program is it?

Mr. Mulroney: The Member is asking me should there have been a rejection. I ask him should we have turned down Versatile? Should we have turned down that investment in Manitoba?

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Mulroney: Should we have turned down that investment in Saskatchewan?

An Hon. Member: They fired the employees.

Mr. Mulroney: The Liberals cannot have it both ways. You have to tell the people where you stand, both of you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor.

Mr. Axworthy: You are selling off this country.

Mr. Mazankowski: Stop asking silly questions.

Mr. Axworthy: We will keep asking questions until you guys are out of power.

Mr. Mazankowski: You are just as phoney as your speech.

Mr. Axworthy: They are firing right now.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to remind Hon. Members that both yesterday and the day before, while Question Period was, of course, a model of decorum, not very many questions got asked. I would hope that Hon. Members who wish to exchange

their views, other than through the Chair in this Chamber, would remember today that there are other Hon. Members waiting to ask questions properly which Ministers are prepared to answer.

An Hon. Member: Properly.

Mr. Speaker: I think that asks and demands of all Hon. Members a certain co-operation—one Hon. Member has just said properly. Of course, in this Chamber, all questions are asked and answered properly.

The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor.

GOVERNMENT'S MINERAL AND METAL POLICY—CANADIAN EQUITY

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question on this same subject of free trade to the Prime Minister. I have here a document issued this week by the Government with respect to mineral and metal policy in Canada in which the Government states:

—the government has set aside the practice of seeking 50 per cent to 60 per cent Canadian equity in new non-fuel mineral resource projects.

● (1430)

Why has the Government given up this practice? Is this not simply another giveaway to the U.S. in return for nothing?

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of State (Forestry and Mines)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should know that measure has been in effect for well over a year as part of Investment Canada's regulations. It is an indication to the mining industry that we welcome foreign investment. Let me tell the Hon. Member that this country's mining industry is in no danger of being taken over by foreigners. It is between 60 per cent and 70 per cent Canadian-owned and operated.

When the mining industry came to us they said they had gone through very difficult times. They needed new equity and new investment. They did not need this kind of restrictive investment decision by the Government of Canada. We listened and acted.

Mr. Langdon: So in fact it was a surrender with absolutely nothing in return.

[Translation]

PRIME MINISTER'S MOTIVES

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, about this booklet with all the false points it tries to make, about this propaganda, why did the Prime Minister decide this time it was all right to publish it at the public's expense? Why?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we believe that publishing this booklet was entirely appropriate and will be useful in helping Canadians make an objective value judgment on this major national issue.