

under a Conservative Government during the 50's, as Hon. Members will recall, causing the loss of an important aeronautical technology and Canadian researchers left Canada because they could not find jobs in this country at the time.

This same attitude is being shown today by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens). We have only to look at the case of Mitel. They brag that they got a British company interested in investing in Mitel, a Canadian company. That is all very well, but the difference between myself and the Minister is that I am quite willing to welcome foreign capital, but only if it is invested in a company which remains fully owned and controlled by Canadians. Exactly the opposite happened in the case of Mitel, Mr. Speaker. We have witnessed a foreign takeover of a Canadian company which admittedly had management problems, but was one of the most important high technology companies in the world, credited with fantastic breakthroughs in its field in the last ten years.

Mr. Speaker, the second reading debate on Bill C-15 was relatively short. As we know, what is discussed at the second reading stage is the principle of the Bill. At the report stage, we believed in the good faith of the Government and we really thought that we would be allowed to make constructive amendments to strengthen the Bill. But no! What did we see? We once again saw the Minister and the Government who were afraid of debate and of constructive suggestions. As I said earlier, we introduced nearly 94 motions, only one third of which were discussed. The rest were shelved because of closure. The Government said: No, we are not interested. When imposing closure, the Government gave no valid reason for its arrogant decision, and to add to the insult to Canadians, the Tory backbenchers have been rather idle during this debate. They have not taken part, but then they rarely do so. They are like obedient sheep, and I find this very unfortunate because they represent 211 constituencies and millions of voters. However, their voice was not heard during this debate. This is not democracy, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

We on this side of the House have participated in this debate in good faith. We put forward our ideas at second reading and at committee stage. We tried to do it at report stage. As I said, before closure was so rudely introduced, we thought that we would be able to discuss and amend this Bill constructively. We are attempting to have, at least during third reading, some semblance of constructive viewpoints put forth by the Government, but we have not had that.

We heard the Minister this morning tell us about net outlays of cash and gross outlays of cash. He talked to us about many, many things in a way that is probably confusing to many Canadians and to many of us in this House. In fact it comes down to what the purpose of this legislation, be it the old FIRA which will disappear with the passage of this Bill, or the new Investment Canada Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to try our damn best to interest foreign capital in Canadian development, but with an objective that would be in the interest of Canadians. First there should be notice and review

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of the supposed takeover and then a follow-up to make sure that it is in the interest of Canada and the interest of Canadians and that there will be from this inflow of capital jobs and other benefits to Canadians.

We did have the satisfaction of finding the Tories somewhat, if I could use the words, "asleep at the switch" on Tuesday last when the question on Motion No. 24 was put to the House. We were pleased, I must say, to have obtained this important change in the Bill. I think it has a very strong impact on the rental housing market. I sincerely believe we will have a better protected market for rental properties. The experience in this field, of course, brings to one's mind the notorious SeawayTrust and Greymac affair in Toronto of several months ago when we saw inflated transactions carried out by numbered companies affecting some 13,000 apartment renters which caused havoc and undue anxiety. If it had not been for the FIRA legislation at the time and the provincial government which intervened, I think some people would have been hurt unjustly.

I recognize the good in the FIRA legislation as it existed. I think this amendment of ours, Motion No. 24, will make it possible for rental properties when they are the object of takeovers to be reviewed as to whether they are in the best interest of Canadians.

This Government has claimed that consultation is to be the cornerstone for its dealings with Canadians, that it cares, that it will listen and act accordingly. This is not the case with Bill C-15. Not a single Opposition suggestion was accepted willingly by the Tories. I bet senior citizens and middle-income Canadians are glad the Tories listened to them in putting forward what I call the purse-snatcher Budget which they brought in. What about the indexing reductions senior citizens will have to face in the years to come? I am sure those ordinary Canadians wanted to pay more taxes and get smaller pensions. It is totally irresponsible, unwise, and without precedent that a Government breaks its word so much on a so-called sacred trust.

• (1540)

Sometimes I wonder whether the Government has any credibility, whether one can believe its word. In my view it goes along aimlessly, day by day. We could quantify very easily the measures which it has taken over the last months in committing, for example, patronage scandals, left and right, without giving the country any real leadership. Bill C-15 exemplifies the lack of direction on the part of the Government.

I should like to address some aspects of the Bill, one of which is its impact on research and development.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it is common knowledge that there are jobs in research and development. Research and development with respect to new products in Canada generate many jobs. On the other hand, the screening agency and the change that is proposed by the Government could, at least in my humble