

I think it is time Canadians began to understand that there is a government run by public relations hand-buts, but the reality is much harsher, more severe, and much more destructive of the economic prospects.

We should also look at the question of foreign investment. The Minister was proud. He said, "I have given new instructions to the management of CDIC to change and to privatize". But the Minister did not provide any discussion, any prescription about what the industrial impact of that privatization would be in the aerospace industry. He has given no guarantees about the question of foreign ownership of those Crown corporations.

I ask the Minister now, although he is engaged in important conversations—

Mr. Rodriguez: And that is insulting.

Mr. Axworthy: Is he prepared in this House, he was not prepared in his oral statement, to say that he will, in critical areas, such as aerospace, communications, uranium mining, put very clear conditions on whether foreign countries can buy major industries in those areas? There are enough Members in this House who are old enough and some of us who have read enough history, to remember the example of the Avro Arrow.

Mr. Benjamin: And VIA Rail.

Mr. Axworthy: Here we have on the chopping block two of the major aerospace companies, and the Minister is prepared to say, "I am selling them off to anybody. If the purchasers strip these companies, gut them and take the technology, move away, I do not care". That is the kind of industrial strategy at which we are looking. It is simply devoid of any concept of what we must do to make sure that there is a healthy aerospace industry in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, or Vancouver.

Mr. Caccia: How about R and D?

Mr. Axworthy: Then we have Teleglobe. We have the same kind of commitment that we are going to sell off Teleglobe, which is one of the major pioneers and leaders in international telecommunications. Will we have a foreign owner of our telecommunications satellite system? Will some sort of foreign private corporation dictate the use of that corporation and, therefore, cut Canadians off from any opportunity of maintaining any involvement in that very critical area of industrial development? The Minister has not said anything. He has covered up. This is the new open government that we have. Where is the Minister's statement and his opportunity to explain? I do not see it, Mr. Speaker.

Similarly, we have the Minister's statements about FIRA, that he is going to make major changes in foreign investment. What the Minister has not been prepared to say to Canadians—and again I pose a question to him that I hope he will get around to answering—is whether, in the changes he is proposing for FIRA, he will eliminate the test of significant economic benefits for Canada. In his changes, will the Minister elimi-

nate the ability of the Foreign Investment Review Agency to negotiate with proposed foreign purchasers of Canadian business what they intend to do in the provision of jobs, in the provision of new research and development, and in the provision of significant economic world mandates for Canadian business? I suspect not. I suspect the so-called open-door policy of that Minister who does not care about those kinds of requirements. He has not placed those conditions because if he had, he would have already said so. As a result, what we have is the prospect of a number of Canadian businesses that are beginning to advance and develop new technology and new products that can be purchased without any kind of restraint and deterrent immediately moving their research and technology south of the border or east or west of us, and Canada will once again become simply a hewer of wood and a drawer of water for the rest of the world. That is the kind of prospect we are facing.

The Minister talks about his commitment to small business. The Foreign Investment Review Agency has been protecting small business because we recognized that with the disparity in dollar value there is an immediate economic advantage for the American purchasers as a result of the value of their dollar. They could come in and take over almost all small businesses without any constraint.

● (1210)

We have a number of questions. I am simply saying that we have heard the rhetoric and now we are seeing the reality. Reality really requires that the Official Opposition provide clear alternatives. We want growth and we want jobs, but we do not want them at the expense of Canadian sovereignty, the regions of the country or the small business community, the victims of the economic statement. The Official Opposition will provide those alternatives and show Canadians that there is a better way to generate growth in Canada.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a comment, not so much to ask a question. Now that the Liberals are the Opposition, they will be resuming their economic nationalist stance. We will be hearing great things about the importance of FIRA, with no recollection of the fact that FIRA began to be weakened under the previous Liberal administration.

I do not often find myself, as I think the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) will attest, in a position to agree in most part with what he has to say, but with the exception of his very selective memory when it comes to FIRA. I agree with what he had to say about the manufacturing technology centre in Winnipeg and the utter stupidity demonstrated by the Government in cancelling that project.

Because I have the responsibility of looking into cuts in environmental services on the part of this Government, last night I thought I would take a look at the book of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) which he wrote a number of years ago entitled *Where I Stand*. I looked for any reference to the environmental dimension of our problems, either with respect to research, technology, economic strategy or whatever, something upon which I could hang a question in the House. I was