

Government Orders

do, defeat this bill and vote against it, because this bill is a silent killer of jobs. The Minister of Finance said so himself. If the Minister of Finance disagrees with what I said just now, let him rise immediately in his seat and state so right at this moment.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérin: Madam Speaker, my colleague just made a good speech about people who he says mislead others. WonderBra-Canadelle has been in Lac Mégantic in my riding for a very long time and gives work to many people. This company is also in Rivière-du-Loup and employs many there. This company was also in the riding of my friend opposite and at some point, it changed its operations and decided to shut its plant in my hon. friend's riding and to expand its plants elsewhere, for the sake of greater productivity and competitiveness. The company has invested a million dollars in Lac Mégantic. If you knew how angry the company president was when he called me! He said to me: "Who is this Liberal Member to blame it on free trade? Free trade has nothing to do with it. He is completely mixed up! This Liberal MP is trying to confuse Canadians, to mislead Canadians by doing that." I think that he sent him a letter or phoned him.

• (1820)

But the Hon. Member did not write or make a public statement saying that he had just made another mistake, and it happened in his own riding. You know, Madam Speaker, I listened to his speech. It is fun to point one's finger and say, "You misled people, you misled people!" No, we misled no one. The president of the company himself, Mr. Létourneau, accuses *you* of misleading your constituents and Canadians in general. Canadelle-WonderBra has greatly increased its staff as a result of free trade, with freer movement of goods. This company is in an excellent position. So be careful with your accusations! Watch out for those accusations which are completely gratuitous and try, sir, to be objective and impartial. With this Bill in particular, strive for that impartiality which is absolutely necessary for the men and women of today who are called upon to govern the country.

Mr. Boudria: It is hard not to answer that, Madam Speaker. Of course, it will be very easy to disagree totally with my friend opposite.

First, he, more than others, should know that Canadelle, when it shut down in my riding, cost 100 women their jobs. I certainly have no apologies to make to Mr. Létourneau who has just closed a plant in our area and cost my constituents their jobs. If anyone should apologize, it is he—he should come to my riding and publicly say he is sorry to my constituents whom he hired until two months ago, telling them that there were jobs for them, knowing that he would lay them off two months later.

Mr. Gérin: Three hundred jobs in Québec!

Mr. Boudria: Now, Madam Speaker, I want to tell my colleague from Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead (Mr. Gérin) that he also must know that Canadelle, an American company 100 per cent owned by Sara Lee of Chicago, bought out its only competitor in Canada, Daisy Fresh, or what was for all practical purposes its only competitor. So Canadelle has almost cornered the market. This company has the whole market to itself in Canada.

Investment Canada's criteria are such—

Mr. Gérin: A wonderful company!

Mr. Boudria: Investment Canada's criteria, Madam Speaker, are such that the Government of Canada must not allow a competitor to acquire a Canadian company if it eliminates competition. What did the Conservative Government do? It let Canadelle buy out its competitor and there is only one company left in Canada. What do we see today? We see plants close in my riding.

I must tell the Tory Member opposite and other Conservative Members who will listen that as I speak now, there are women in Hawkesbury who are losing their jobs because of this Government's policies. If apologies are in order, the Conservatives whose policies force my constituents out of their jobs should apologize.

I see the Hon. Member opposite, the Minister— At least she no doubt sympathizes with the 95 women in my constituency who are losing their jobs before Christmas.

Mr. Gérin: She is not Minister!

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, I must tell you that the matter is not funny.

I think I just recognized an Hon. Member who is not a Minister as being one. I wish she becomes a Minister some day. Perhaps she would be more qualified than those who are now in office—that would not be difficult.