

I would like to deal with my first point which is the knowledge of what is going on in the economy of the country. We need this knowledge so that we can minimize the negative surprises we receive when companies pull out of the country and when jobs are taken away from branch plants and given to head offices in foreign countries. We need this knowledge to be able to communicate between Departments. I think it is of vital importance that this knowledge be increased and considered a routine procedure between government Departments. If it is not, there could be takeovers prompted and approved by the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion that will have a very negative effect on the responsibilities of the Departments of Science and Technology and Energy, Mines and Resources.

For instance, a takeover could run completely contrary to what Canadians want to see happen, which is 50 per cent Canadianization of the oil and gas industry by 1990. This is a tremendously important aspect. If each government Department had the information that other Departments have, then we could better prevent such negative and sudden turns that are not considered beneficial to the Canadian economy.

As well, I would like to deal with the regional development aspect of this amendment. Here we have something that is a very positive by-product of this motion to amend Bill C-15. If Hon. Members are aware of the concept of regional development in other countries, they will know that regional development is not handled by a Department of the Government but quite often by the office of the Leader of the Government. The reason for this is that, through the Leader's office, a Government is better able to co-ordinate the concept of regional development. It is not left to a Department, with the vested interests of that Department, as is the case in Canada. The Leader, through his or her office, is able to co-ordinate with other Departments the activity of regional development. That is important, not only from the point of view of determining what a prospective investor would want and need to be able to carry on the work of the organization in that region, but conversely, it can also be used by the Government to plan the economic future of that region. The Government would be able to determine what that region required to be able to attract economic activity.

● (1750)

I see that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. La Salle) is in the House today. I would like to tell him that the removal by his Government of the federal building in Sydney has had a very adverse effect on the economy of that area. The cancellation of the decentralization project of social income security from Halifax to Sydney—and Sydney has over 40 per cent unemployment—is taking jobs away from an area which needs those jobs. The Government is taking away jobs which could have been created instantaneously and which would have had a spiral effect in the community. The project would have provided an economic stimulus and it would have diversified the economy. It would have created business for hotels, motels, and transportation. It would have created an economic spinoff and put additional moneys in the economy if the decentraliza-

### *Investment Canada Act*

tion offices had been moved to downtown Sydney. It would have created a stimulus for downtown restructuring in an area which badly needs the activity.

Had the Government considered the activities of all Departments before making those decisions, it would not have created the additional hardship in industrial Cape Breton which it has created. In addition, the Minister's Department has not followed through with downtown and harbour development in the City of Sydney, thereby making it less attractive to industries which would set up businesses in that city.

There is also a need to co-ordinate with provincial Governments as to what certain areas require. For instance, if an area has adequate school and hospital facilities, of course it will be much more attractive to regional and industrial development than an area which does not have those facilities. Those concepts should be thought out and co-ordinated. That is not being done by this Government nearly to the extent to which it was done by the last Government. The areas of regional disparity are slipping further and further behind the growth areas. It is a tragedy. If the downward slide can be caught with industrial and regional development, then the distance will be less to bring that area back to the Canadian norm and, more important, the level which we in Canada consider to be the level of economic development and life which we want to have in Canada.

More important than the disparity between regions is the disparity between people. In this technological age, because there has been no consideration given to planning and because of the lack of co-ordination between Departments, we do not know what employment opportunities will be provided to Canadians. There are thousands and thousands of young people who have given up hope of finding jobs. There is not even a make-work program into which they can fit. They are not coming off unemployment insurance and they are not employed. They are not disabled. They are young people who want to make a start. Because they have not had unemployment insurance benefits, they cannot qualify for grants because only people whose unemployment insurance has expired can receive them. It is a Catch-22 situation. It is very dangerous. We are dealing with the lives of Canadian citizens. To make it even worse, we are dealing with people who know what they have to offer to this country. We are snuffing out the possibilities and the hopes which young people have. With regard to other Canadians, we are snuffing out the possibility that they will be able to fit into the technological age and the job opportunities which will come from that. If we are not careful, the Government will create a society within a society—one society with possibilities and upward mobility and a second society without any hope of being able to be a part of what this country has to offer.

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the two amendments to Clause 6 of Bill C-15. Clause 6 is important because it creates the agency which will be known as Investment Canada. The first amendment was moved by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), and the second amendment was moved by the