

*Investment Canada Act*

The Liberals were not willing to face up to it either, but they liked to pretend from time to time that they were. They knew that foreign investment was a problem so they created a Foreign Investment Review Agency and pretended to do something about it. They tried to have it both ways.

I will say one thing for the Conservatives, however, they do with enthusiasm what the Liberals used to do shamefully. When it came down to the crunch, the Liberals always did what the Americans wanted them to do but they used to have the decency to be ashamed of it, or to give some other reason. Not the Conservatives, though. They are honest in their stupidity. If the Americans don't want them to do it, they don't come up with another reason; they say, no, we are not doing it because the Americans don't want us to do it. You have to hand it to the Conservatives on that score. That's the kind of honesty one admires, I suppose, of persons who are not really in control of the world in which they live, and don't want to be in control. But that is what we are getting from the Government. That is what this Bill is a sign of. That is regrettable in the extreme.

● (1650)

*[Translation]*

**Mr. André Harvey (Chicoutimi):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot miss such a good opportunity to express my views about a Bill which reflects the basic ideological difference between the Party in power and the Official Opposition. Of course, Bill C-15 reflects the fact that our country must become increasingly open to the rest of the world. In the last few hours, the Official Opposition has found the answer to all the problems facing this country, especially job creation and investment. Members opposite have even mentioned economic sovereignty, saying that it should be preserved. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have to ask ourselves what this economic sovereignty has cost our country in the last 12 years. The economic sovereignty mentioned by our Liberal colleagues has cost us nearly \$200 billion in about ten years. Just ask the unemployed what it has cost, Mr. Speaker, between 1.5 and 2 million jobless. It is therefore important that our Government stick to its guns as far as this Bill and many other initiatives are concerned. What is involved here, Mr. Speaker, is part of the national rebuilding process initiated by our Government. Naturally, the Opposition parties are now powerless because they have been overtaken by the new national political reality which reflects our efforts to promote national reconciliation, as well as international reconciliation with our economic partners.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there have never been so many major agreements signed in this country as in the last few months. You just have to think of the oil agreement and of the national energy policy review. There has also been for the Quebec Government and Quebecers the general agreement of \$1.6 billion which will be signed within a few days and is designed to deal with major problems in the areas of tourism, small business and forestry.

Faced with Bill C-15, which will show the whole world that Canada is now open to foreign investment, without any need-less or artificial constraints, it is obviously easy for the Official Opposition to harp on about "jobs, jobs, jobs". Mr. Speaker, I remember that for four weeks, starting November 9, we were accused of victimizing the students, but nevertheless, our Government persisted and came out with the most progressive summer employment program ever, namely Challenge '85.

On that issue, the Liberal Opposition has been dismantled. For helping the aged, for the spouse allowance, \$350 million. Although no government ever made such a significant effort, the Official Opposition never stops saying the Government is not doing enough. In spite of all that, I think it is important that this Government should proceed with Bill C-15 now before us and indicate to all Canadians that it knows where it is going in many sectors of Canadian activities, including foreign investment.

Mr. Speaker, our record concerning foreign investment is impressive. According to reports from experts, Canada ranks 24th on a list of 24 nations. There is room for improvement as far as attractiveness is concerned, that is our country's attractiveness to foreign investment.

Witnesses have appeared before the Committee, which sat many hours. The Opposition is demanding immediate jobs, but witnesses themselves have told the Committee that it is not possible to repair in three, four, five or six months the damage done by the Liberal administration. It cannot be repaired in less than two or three years. Two million unemployed cannot find jobs overnight. An international reputation is not rehabilitated overnight, Mr. Speaker. It is a slow, assiduous, perseverant process, and this legislation goes to show that our Government will give back confidence to Canadians and foreigners.

In an effort to ridicule every effort made by the Prime Minister, both on the international and national scenes, with all the goodwill we all are aware of, my colleague a few minutes ago asked the following question: "Who wants to buy Canada?"

Mr. Speaker, may I submit that at this moment, in the situation it was left in by the Liberals, nobody wants to buy Canada.

It is therefore important that the national reconstruction go on, despite the endless hours of debate on legislation. Currently, the Liberals are developing new roles. A few hours ago, the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) became the environment guru. He was ready to allocate all the funds needed to the environment. But he is the very man who fathered the series of federal deficits which started some ten years ago. He fathered the first \$500 million federal deficit. He also fathered the second \$1.5 billion federal deficit, and today's \$36 billion deficit.

Mr. Speaker, national reconstruction calls for realism, and this Government will go on proving it. It must also be pointed