

Investment Canada Act

Diefenbaker stood for Canada. With this kind of legislation we are seeing a Conservative Party which has become more and more like the Republicans. In fact, they have become the Republican Party North, and I am sure that is why you are rising; you do not like that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret the Hon. Member's time has expired.

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I want to begin where I think my friend from Saskatchewan left off, and that is to indicate my concern that the back-bench Members of the Conservative Government are sitting so quietly and silently through the passage of every one of these amendments before us. As you know, there are several amendments before us and if I were to attempt to speak to each and every one of them on an individual basis I would more than take up my 10 minutes of time. Therefore I am going to focus primarily on two parts of those amendments.

The first one deals with the role of the Minister with respect to policy on investment, the way in which it fails to separate the role of the Minister responsible for the agency and the manner in which the policy is carried out by the bureaucracy. This Bill does not take into consideration a demarcation between the policy direction, namely that taken by Cabinet, and the way in which it is administered, namely by the bureaucracy. Secondly, I want to focus some of my remarks on the motion which deals with the Industrial Labour Adjustment Program.

Before doing so, I want to ask the Conservative back-benchers from Toronto why they are not speaking about this Bill which fails to protect the transfer of technology. Surely they would want to be speaking on this Bill to make sure that in the days ahead when the sale of de Havilland Corporation to European enterprise is imminent, if all reports are true, they represent their constituents and make sure that Investment Canada will protect Canadian jobs in Downsview; will protect workers from facing a situation where a foreign national can come in and purchase de Havilland, withdraw all the technology, and transfer it to its European-based enterprises.

I suppose the best example is that of the latter part of the 1950s and early 1960s when the Conservative Government under John Diefenbaker scrapped the Avro Arrow and allowed a foreign multinational to transfer all the technology to the U.S. we exported all of our scientists who had to go in search of employment in the U.S. rather than in the Canadian environment they were so used to. I ask myself why is it that the Conservative MPs from Toronto are so silent on this issue? I ask myself why there is not one Conservative Member of Parliament from the Montreal region standing up to talk about the motions which can affect the sale of Canadair Corporation. Everyone knows that the Minister responsible for industry is planning to put on the block a number of Crown corporations which in the past have been so instrumental in developing Canadian technology and creating jobs here in Canada. This allowed Canadian firms to compete on a world-wide basis and keep the jobs here in Canada. Why is it that

there is not one Conservative Member of Parliament from Montreal standing up to protect his constituents?

In his November 8, 1984 economic statement the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) outlined for the first time some of the long-term plans he had for DRIE, which included cut-backs. Why is it in the weeks that followed that announcement we did not have one Member of Parliament from the Conservative back-benches who represents those areas of this country which have in the past been aided so well by DRIE get up and speak on this issue? Where were they when these cut-backs were announced on November 8?

I ask myself where are they today when we have under Motion No. 9 a severely limiting effect on the ILAP program? There is a program that I am very familiar with. I represent the constituency of Sudbury which I think most Members in this House would recognize has had a rough economic ride, so to speak, in the last decade. In that decade we witnessed 10,000 of our people emigrate outside the Sudbury region in search of employment elsewhere. That emigration would have been much worse had it not been for the programs put in place by the Liberal Government under DREE and later under the reorganized program called DRIE. The Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) was the Minister of Employment and Immigration at the time that those lay-offs occurred in the Sudbury area. He was instrumental, using the provisions of the Industrial Labour Adjustments Program, in minimizing the impact of the loss of those jobs in our community. The people in our community banded together. Labour groups, small business groups and local Government formed committees to help mitigate against the loss of jobs which was going to be incurred in our major industry.

● (1640)

A veil of secrecy and silence permeates this discussion, Mr. Speaker. People who are watching this debate at the present time will note that only Members of the Opposition are rising to debate this Investment Canada Bill clause by clause. One must stretch one's imagination to believe that Conservative Members of Parliament who represent small town Canada will not see their communities severely impacted in the next several years.

The trend lines in our economy dictate that there will be changes in the textiles and shoe manufacturing industries. These are not going to affect the Torontos and Montreals of the world but rather small town Canada. None of the Conservative Members of Parliament who represent those areas have told their Government what changes they want in this Bill to protect the interest of their constituents. That says something about the way in which the Conservatives are putting this Bill through the House of Commons. In order to represent their constituents they should be speaking to ensure that Investment Canada will fulfil the mandates that their constituents require of this legislation.

I spoke earlier about some of the amendments to the main motion. I would like to focus in on one very small area. Under the old Foreign Investment Review Agency the Government