

Oral Questions

Why doesn't the minister advise the Prime Minister to put Mr. Lush out of his misery and call for his resignation?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am going to repeat the suggestion I made yesterday. If my hon. friend, who wishes to slander people within this House, has evidence of a conflict of interest why doesn't he present it to me and I will look into it?

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, the minister is telling Canadians that an appointed commissioner can also be an exclusive agent for property the Harbour Commission wants to buy. In effect, this minister is telling Canadians, "Listen boys, you can have your cake and you can eat it too".

How can the minister assert that such behaviour meets the Prime Minister's standards regarding conflict of interest?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there was an allegation of conflict of interest at an earlier time which was fully examined and vetted by the counsel for the Harbour Commission and it was found that there was no conflict of interest.

If my hon. friend has evidence of a conflict of interest, why does he not go outside the door, why doesn't he leave his parliamentary immunity and go outside and make that allegation? Make the allegation outside.

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INVESTMENT CANADA

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House assume that the appointment of a new Minister of Industry, Science and Technology signals a major change in government policy. We congratulate the new minister on his promotion. We only hope that industry does not go the way of the VIA Rail.

Last year, foreigners took over a record 376 Canadian corporations in the first nine months alone. Last year, foreign companies brought into Canada \$3.4 billion, but they took out over \$22 billion in interest and dividends alone.

When is this government going to say no? When is it going to stop this fire sale of Canadian companies? When is it going to stop this haemorrhaging of Canada?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for his comments. I particularly appreciate the word "promotion". We never know in this job whether it is a promotion or a demotion.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval) Investment Canada which, as the hon. member knows very well, deals with any foreign investment in Canada has done a very good job since 1985 and it will continue to do so. In the case to which my hon. friend refers, he knows very well that the Energy Board of Ontario has also to give its consent. I believe that it would be normal practice to await the recommendation of both before making a decision.

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, as for Investment Canada's record, since it was formed in July of 1985 there has been not one single turndown. The score card now reads: Foreigners, 789; Canadians, zero.

Is there one single Canadian company that this government is not prepared to see fall into the hands of foreigners?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, regrettably, the hon. member is wrong in his assertion that Investment Canada has not refused any investment proposals. During the two years that Investment Canada proceeded under the Liberal Party there was no major refusal either.

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SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and I want to congratulate her on her appointment as Minister of Justice.

Four years ago this week, the Conservative government responded to the unanimous report of the Special Committee on Equality Rights by promising that the government will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground