

then they indeed are not welcome because ultimately their strategy will result in the loss of Canadian jobs.

● (1210)

There are many other important amendments in this grouping, including the motion which would encourage and facilitate the acquisition and control of Canadian businesses by Canadians in areas pertaining to our cultural heritage and national identity. In this motion we speak of a variety of very sensible techniques to promote that important objective. We proposed a motion which would ensure that Canadian business enterprises owned and controlled by non-Canadians respect the rights of workers including the right to collective bargaining.

I will pursue these and other important questions in the course of ongoing debate on this fundamental motion and on this Bill. I hope that the Government will come to its senses and withdraw this odious and regressive piece of legislation.

[Translation]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou): Mr. Speaker I rise to take part in today's debate on these amendments with the same conviction I had when Bill C-15, an Act respecting investment in Canada, first came up for debate on second reading.

This Bill is the first measure introduced by the Conservative Government to convince its friends south of the border that not only is Canada open for business as before, but that now, under a Conservative administration, it is up for sale!

Mr. Speaker, we must create hundreds and thousands of jobs right now to avoid wasting a whole generation. The Conservatives promised that tens of thousands of jobs would materialize the minute they were sworn into office. And now, eight months later, they want to do away with a piece of legislation designed to protect Canadian investors, and throw the doors wide open to just about anybody—no questions asked—thus leaving Canada's small businesses and high technology industries to fall prey to foreign competitors.

Mr. Speaker, most jobs in this country are created by small businesses. As if this Bill in itself was not enough to destroy so many years of efforts by Canadians to control their own economy, it even provides that one person alone, a Minister, can decide what our economic future will be. This will not be a Cabinet decision, and the agency created under this measure will not be given political guidelines. Indeed, the agency will be given its marching orders.

Mr. Speaker, we are not questioning the integrity of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens). On the contrary, the amendment we are advocating will enable him to answer to the people of Canada for his decisions, thus preventing the Minister from leaving himself open to charges of partisanship.

We all know that the Minister comes from Bay Street and so, without judging him, we simply have to see where he stands

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concerning such issues as Melcher's, Wabasso, Sherbrooke's cartography institute, Domtar and what have you.

You would think that the Minister is not attuned to the needs of Quebec, yet the facts are there, I am not making this up. The Conservative Government has been in office for eight months, but people still have to demonstrate, and the Pêcheries Cartier people even have to stage a hunger strike, Mr. Speaker.

Our amendment is constructive. The Investment Canada Agency must not be part of the Minister's staff. The Government and the Minister must give general guidelines to the Agency and let management apply the Act and the regulations.

Ours is a democratic society, Mr. Speaker, and our institutions have to be beyond reproach. We cannot leave Canadian taxpayers with the impression that outright patronage is the hallmark of this Government, that it can hardly wait for the end of the board of directors' mandate to find cushy jobs for its friends.

They are being asked to hand in their resignation to make room for the Government's friends, Mr. Speaker. They even went as far as awarding untendered contracts to the relatives of a Minister. That is the kind of example we get from the Government. With this legislation, Mr. Speaker, who will make the decisions? One man, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens). And where will decisions originate from? From Bay Street, Mr. Speaker. How can the Government establish credibility with Canadians if it fails to follow its own guidelines and puts itself in a conflict of interests situation every day?

Mr. Speaker, the promises made in the fall of 1984 were just that, worthless election promises, and the Progressive Conservatives had no intention of living up to them after taking over. The only way Canadians will regain confidence in parliamentarians and our institutions is to dissociate political power and administrative structures from Government institutions, as an example to the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude my remarks by urging my colleagues on Government benches to support our amendment so that democracy will prevail in our institutions.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The question is on Motion No. 4 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.