

*Oral Questions*

American. It was sold. If I understood well, the member said that we are trying to sell out the Canadian ownership. It is not a matter of Canadian ownership anyway.

No reasonable manager would give that kind of a guarantee before having first seen the business plan of the company, what the company intends to do in terms of the future. The company already expressed the views that maybe it could invest \$1 billion in the new company. I think that is the reasonable way.

I am sure that my friend, if he wants to be objective, will admit that the best way is to refer the case to Investment Canada, which will as it did— do you have something against Italians?

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, and I would ask him to be careful.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

**Mr. McCurdy:** The minister has said that he will not accept a consortium purchase of de Havilland if it proves to be harmful. The consortium has already indicated that it plans to replace de Havilland's new 100-seater aircraft with its own, to leave de Havilland with some research and development and parts assembly, and to eliminate up to 3,000 direct jobs in Toronto and some 20,000 indirect jobs, most of which are in Quebec.

Is that harmful? Is that acceptable? Or, does the minister plan to act?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I answered exactly the same question the member asks today.

The deal has not yet been presented to Investment Canada. It will be done in due course. Investment Canada will deal with high-tech companies that have a lot of requests and different considerations and will take into account deals which will be acceptable to us.

I refer my friend to a deal which during the campaign the NDP Government of Ontario said it would refuse. It

was the one with Consumers Gas. When Mr. Rae came to power he accepted the deal because it was a good deal.

I believe that we should have the same attitude about de Havilland, keeping in mind, I am proud to say, that Investment Canada did a wonderful job and will continue to do so.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, to most of us the evidence is clear: Investment Canada has done no job at all.

It is reported that the consortium is asking for between \$500 million and \$1 billion spread over 10 years in order to support research which is basically connected to the consortium's new 100-seater aircraft to replace the new Dash-8 400 series. That new airplane, by the way, will be assembled in Germany and the rest of it fragmented among four or five other countries.

My question for the minister is simple. Would it not make more sense to use that money to obtain an equity position, a golden share, which would ensure that not only the R and D is done in Canada but the new 400 series will be produced and assembled in Canada so that workers will benefit and Canada will benefit from having at least one plane left that is produced in this country?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, the member, as his party normally does, is always in advance of any decision.

But what happens with that kind of approach? I believe, as I said yesterday, that we work and Investment Canada works with the presentation of an application by the company and any other application made regarding the deal with de Havilland. Investment Canada has already considered two applications, and it could do that again.

I ask my friend to be reasonable for once and to wait for the way we will work. He will see, as usual, that we work very well.

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**SOFTWOOD LUMBER**

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. As he is well aware, the Minister for International Trade has