

Investment Canada Act

the workers in his city, he stands up and says, "A new day has dawned. Thank Heaven for a P.C. Government". It is a classic case of jobs being lost as a result of foreign investment. The facts are on the record that it was a foreign company that took over another foreign subsidiary. The result has been a loss of 400 jobs.

Members opposite may not like to face reality. They may want to re-write history, but the facts are very clear in this case. Why did this Member get up in the House to try to defend the elimination of the one mechanism that his community and his workers have had to turn to in order to stop this company from doing what it wanted to do? Why has he been able to rise and unblushingly call for the cutting away of the one piece of legislation which is protecting the people in his community?

● (1620)

Mr. Stewart: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to tell the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor that when it come to speaking about free enterprise, I do not need any help. Second, perhaps I could ask him a question. Does he understand the meaning of grandstanding, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stewart: When the Hon. Member first stood in his place in this House to speak about Black & Decker and General Electric, he mentioned that take over of Westinghouse by Black & Decker. He did not even know what the company was. He is up there grandstanding again on their great vision of ordinary Canadians.

Yes, that is happening in my riding. Only 8 per cent of all the applications that came before FIRA were reviewed, at a cost of \$6,000 each. The one that FIRA should have reviewed was the Black & Decker application for Barrie. It did not review it and allowed it to happen. Why bother at all? That is the whole point. We will chase away 35,000 more than we will ever win. It is in my riding and it is my concern. However, defending an 8 per cent decision does not make it right at any time.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I am just going to step in and help you referee this exchange. I gathered from the Hon. Member's remarks that he seems to be telling us that had FIRA protected the Black & Decker workers, he would not be supporting this Bill but would be supporting the continuance of FIRA. Is that correct? That is the conclusion that I would draw from what the Hon. Member has said.

Mr. Stewart: Mr. Speaker, may I tell the Hon. Member that his conclusions are the same as they were in the leadership race: he might win.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, again, the Hon. Member has missed the point of FIRA. The statistics regarding FIRA do not show that 92 per cent of the applications have not been reviewed. They show that 92 per cent of those reviewed were accepted with conditions, and the conditions in the case of

Black & Decker, according to the news reports and the comments made by FIRA officials, were that the Black & Decker plant would remain profitable. So long as it remained profitable, it would be kept open.

The union has quite clear statistics that indicate, first, that Black & Decker was profitable last year and, second, that it has remained profitable this year. It is because of that that it is able to turn to FIRA and say: "You have not kept to the conditions to which you have committed yourself". In fact, it is the commitments that FIRA has gotten out of Black & Decker that now permit the workers in the community to go both to the Minister and in turn to the courts to try to protect those jobs.

Let me ask the Hon. Member whether he cannot recognize the contradiction in his approach. Can he not recognize that in this case, as I predict will happen in many, many cases in the future, jobs of Canadian workers will be lost because of foreign investment and jobs that could be protected by a review process will go without that protection in the future?

I have one last point to make, if I may. I am not grandstanding. I do not have constituents in Barrie to win to my side. I am talking about people in our country who are being hurt and whose jobs are being lost. That is the point and that is what our fight is about. I ask the Hon. Member to recognize that as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I recognize the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart), but I ask him to make it a short answer.

Mr. Stewart: Mr. Speaker, I will make it short. It is not contradictory. I will always fight for my constituents. I will be fighting very hard for solving the Black & Decker problem, and not inflaming it as the Hon. Member is. Investment Canada, on the whole, will create a much better situation than we have now, and always will. Foreign investment—

An Hon. Member: Right on!

Ms. Mitchell: We made a convert.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time for questions and comments is now over.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing the House that the Senate has passed Bill C-16, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1985.