

desperate Canadians who have not been able to find work—thanks to the policies of the last Government and this Government—are going to get anything better from foreign investment of the sort the Hon. Member is calling for and that which the Government has proposed in Bill C-15.

● (1620)

Mr. James: Mr. Speaker, certainly I do not think there is any sort of contradiction at all. We are saying, as a Government, and Investment Canada is saying, that we are very interested in foreign investment coming here, investing and starting up industries which are going to provide jobs. The common argument of the Hon. Member's Party is that foreign investment brings no new technology but simply exports everything, including the profits. The experience I have had in my riding, which is very important to me, is that 95 per cent of the direct employment is from foreign investment. There is a major research and development centre, probably one of the major centres in Canada, in my riding. We have Imperial Oil, with a research and development centre for Exxon. We have Dow Chemical Canada, which is a multinational corporation. Some of these companies employ over 2,500 employees.

It is very difficult for me, coming from the kind of riding I do, to say that foreign investment is not good. A lot of those companies located in the Sarnia area over 30 years ago. So I guess that this is a good track to run on. The concern is how many companies like the Dow Chemicals, the Exxons and so on, we scared away with the FIRA type of legislation.

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Epp) for one supplementary question, then I intend to hear argument with regard to the tabling of documents requested earlier today.

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I suggest, perhaps in response to what the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. James) said, that to argue the situation of one riding as opposed to the nation is quite an inadequate case.

Let me turn to another matter. The Hon. Member has also suggested that Investment Canada will provide incentives for Canadian companies to increase their shareholdings. There has been talk at various times about this legislation improving Canadian and foreign investment. I am curious to see what the Hon. Member would have us believe in that particular area of encouragement to Canadians.

Mr. James: Mr. Speaker, one response I would have is that, from my experience in the business community, a lot of the larger corporations, the multinationals, in getting into new businesses, are more interested in not having them solely under the wing of the major company, and they are looking for Canadian investors to be part of that or to be the major owner of those kinds of businesses.

I think the Hon. Member probably understands that that has become very prevalent in Japan and in some other places in the world. I think there is a tremendous potential for that sort of thing and, hopefully, we will see in Thunder Bay as well

Point of Order—Mr. Kaplan

as in Sarnia major corporations now working with the individual investors, the latter being the suppliers for those major companies.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

MR. KAPLAN—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF DOCUMENT—RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members earlier asked me to allow argument to be made with regard to the question of the potential tabling of a document which was referred to in Question Period. Is the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) or the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) ready to make argument?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could start this off. Some days I find it rather difficult to understand exactly some points of order—I shouldn't say "some days", every day I find it difficult to find out what the points of order of members of the Official Opposition are. I try to be as accommodating and co-operative as possible. If I understood exactly what they wanted, and if it were a legitimate point of order, I think we could deal with it. However, there is no question today that reference was made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to a letter written by the former Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Pierre Trudeau, to the then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Allan J. MacEachen. The date of that letter was April 28, 1980. As I understood the point of order, Mr. Speaker, it was that that document which was cited should be tabled.

I am not quite sure what the point is. The document which was referred to by the Prime Minister has been tabled. It is a sessional paper. It was in fact, as I recall it, tabled on May 1, 1980, by my predecessor, the Hon. Yvon Pinard, and it is now a public document. Perhaps I do not quite understand what the Official Opposition is driving at, but I take it that those Hon. Members are referring to the reference in Beauséjour with respect to citing state papers. There was a reference by the Prime Minister to a document which is already a public document. It has already been tabled in the House of Commons. It is a sessional paper of the previous Parliament.

I simply make those observations at this point, not from the point of view of trying to obstruct the point of order but rather to suggest that perhaps it is not a legitimate point of order, unless I have my understanding of the request of the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) all wrong.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, at the time the Government House Leader objected to the tabling of the letter which was read in the House by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), he did not say that in effect the request was unnecessary because the document was already a public document.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I said that in my seat.