

Investment Canada Act

"(c) carry out research and analysis relating to domestic and international investment, including research on means to achieve greater autonomy by non-Canadian controlled businesses in Canada to compete for world markets with their parent firms, and table the results in the House of Commons;"

[Translation]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry) moved:

Motion No. 9

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out lines 29 to 31 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"(e) assist in the development of industrial and economic policies that affect investment in Canada and consult with labour, business and community representatives about the effects of proposals for acquisitions and new business establishments by non-Canadians on regional employment and economic growth, within the limits of confidentiality to protect commercially valuable information disclosed by non-Canadian investors;"

● (1150)

[English]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor) moved:

Motion No. 10

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out lines 29 to 31 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"(e) develop medium term and long term public and private industrial sector investment guidelines consistent with an industrial strategy that emphasizes full employment, growth, diversification, autonomy and export competitiveness of the Canadian economy;"

[Translation]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry) moved:

Motion No. 11

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out lines 32 to 34 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"(f) ensure that the notification and review of investments are carried out in accordance with this Act to achieve net additional employment, net technological upgrading, net new export markets, additional domestic competition, and other measurable benefits to Canada;"

[English]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor) moved:

Motion No. 14

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out line 34 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"ance with this Act;

(g) ensure that all Canadian business enterprises owned and controlled by non-Canadians respect the rights of workers including the right to collective bargaining;"

[Translation]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor) moved:

Motion No. 15

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out line 34 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"ance with this Act;

(g) encourage and facilitate the acquisition of control of Canadian businesses by Canadians in areas pertaining to cultural heritage and national identity by arranging consortia of Canadian owned businesses, joint venture arrangements and other equity sharing ventures with non-Canadians and with Canadian Crown Corporations and other means as the Governor-in-Council deems necessary;"

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry) moved:

Motion No. 16

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by adding immediately after line 34 at page 4 the following:

"(g) advise the Governor in Council of proposed allowance or disallowance of investments in new businesses or acquisitions by non-Canadians in accordance with the provisions set out elsewhere in this Act and seek its approval therefor; and"

and by renumbering the subsequent paragraph.

[Translation]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor) moved:

Motion No. 17

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out line 3 at page 5 and substituting the following therefor:

"the government of any province or territory or any".

[English]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor) moved:

Motion No. 18

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out lines 6 to 9 at page 5 and substituting the following therefor:

"(c) shall convene industrial sector-based advisory groups consisting of representatives of business, labour, provincial and local authorities and other interested parties, to make recommendations with regard to private and government investment and related policies and priorities in their sectors in conjunction with subsection in 5(1)(e)."

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, the amendments we have before us are obviously of such quality and weight that I am afraid ten minutes of debate will not give full justice to the matters raised. I will attempt to give a small overview, and I know my colleagues will be more than anxious to follow and to deal with specific parts of the motions.

Let me say in general terms that the primary purpose of the amendments that we have introduced is, first, to try to clarify in parliamentary terms the clear responsibility of the Minister to take action to benefit Canadian industry, particularly investment in Canadian industry. The present Bill is very vague, general and meaningless when it comes specifically to establishing what the tax roles and functions of a Minister must be in securing a more active set of benefits for Canada by Canadians.

We have been told by many speakers on the government side that this is one of the major ambitions of the Bill. Therefore, it comes as some surprise why government Members opposed amendments in committee that are clearly designed to enhance the ability of the Government to promote those very same objectives, namely to ensure that there are opportunities for Canadians to invest in their own industry. Again, we have to question the motivation and the seriousness with which the Government has adopted the notion of Canadian investment because of its unwillingness to support amendments which are clearly designed to expand that role.

Second, we feel it is very important that the Minister responsible for the operation of Investment Canada be accountable for his or her actions, particularly in cases where