

very attractive to probably our largest investor in Canada, Canadian Pacific. I am referring to Maclaren, a very prosperous family-owned company which was sold quite recently to the Noranda group. Did Noranda start laying off employees right away? It did not! It modernized the plant and is now training and re-training employees in the most advanced pulp and paper technology. And what is more, Mr. Speaker, Noranda is also part of an international complex.

I was comparing a foreign company and a Canadian company to demonstrate that their behaviour is the same. Maclaren is now starting a re-forestation program that will benefit our forests in the Outaouais area. And like ERCO, which is a foreign company, Maclaren has joined me and the Municipality of Notre-Dame-du-Laus in seeking a solution to a situation where a sawmill was closed because of a lack of markets, and as you know, Mr. Speaker, the lumber market is in very bad shape. So this is not exactly the picture we have been given of the typical foreign company that wants to invest in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, earlier we were talking about a poll that said that the majority of Canadians favoured foreign investment. On June 3, there was a headline in the Ottawa newspaper *Le Droit* which said: Yes to foreign capital! Interestingly, I looked at the breakdown of this poll, and it says here that the 62 per cent who were in favour of foreign investment included 50 per cent of the respondents who were NDP supporters, and who made up 18 to 20 per cent of the group. This means that a large number of Canadian NDP supporters are for foreign investment. In addition, nearly two-thirds of the Liberals are in favour of foreign investment, and of course a very large majority of Conservatives are in favour of foreign investment in this country. The question asked in this poll was: In your opinion, should Prime Minister Brian Mulroney encourage or discourage foreign investment in Canada? So 62 per cent said: encourage, and 19 per cent said: discourage. As I explained before, the answers did not depend on the politics of the respondents, since they all seemed to think there was something good in it.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore a fallacy to say that only a small minority of very wealthy pro-U.S. capitalists who are too scared to develop their own economy are interested in foreign investment. On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, they are very sophisticated people with a vision of Canada and nationalist hearts beating in their chests, as the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor said. But they do not equate nationalism with statism, it simply means they are proud to be Canadians and they want to protect our quality of life. That is not closing the door to foreigners who do come up with excellent ideas and are prepared to work with us to solve our problems.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to the many allegations that we failed to keep our election promises. As I said before, what the Opposition calls promises we call solutions we wanted to bring to our problems. Our goal was to find solutions to our problems, including the shortage of investment capital. We look

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upon foreign capital as a source of development financing, and there is no reason to close our door. FIRA had a negative impact, so much so that a Conference Board of Canada study concluded that one of the problems created by the review agency was that it attracted much political and doctrinal intervention. An example of that was the oil industry, Mr. Speaker, a sector which was already creating jobs and whose future employment opportunities were very promising. A good many Gatineau residents found jobs in Western Canada's oil industry, not to mention others on the payrolls of manufacturing plants related to the petroleum sector.

Mr. Speaker, this fear of foreigners and this propensity for nationalizing potentially profitable companies had a predictable effect: the country's economic development came to a standstill and this was a significant factor in our slide into a recession even worse than that experienced by neighbouring countries with which we compete. The bottom line was that they nationalized a disaster when they could have put their bets on a very dynamic sector that could have helped us cushion the impact of the impending world-wide crisis. No, Sir, they undermined and weakened the industry because they chose to take a doctrinal and ideological approach rather than see it as an economic development sector.

That, Mr. Speaker, is precisely why I listened with great concern to what Hon. Members were again telling us this morning. They have not changed their tune and they did not come up with anything new. They maintain that we did not listen to Canadians, but I think we did and the polls bear me out. What is more, Mr. Speaker, I sit on the standing committee of the House which studied this Bill, and we heard many witnesses who shared the views of the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor and those of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy). We heard them out, we made notes of what they had to say, but then we also paid attention to other people who appeared before the committee to tell us they firmly believe that the review agency as it is structured did impede Canada's growth. There has to be some screening in key sectors, particularly those related to our culture and our identity as Canadians. But statistics did show that this mechanism slowed down the decision-making process to the extent that barely 5 or 6 per cent of all applications ever came up for review.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it would have been illogical to ignore the fact that economic experts and most people in Canada were urging us to do something about the agency because it did not foster development. That is precisely what we did, after listening to hours of discussions and evidence by various witnesses, and it must be kept in mind that this Bill contains a safety valve. There will be review levels and protected sectors, but what is even more important is that this Bill reflects a very positive attitude toward investment.

The Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Langdon) mentioned France a while ago; he gave that country as an example