

concerns, were taxed on only 5.7 per cent of their profits in the past 10 years. With these huge handouts to foreign extractive industries, is it any wonder they come in to invest money in these areas when they have these huge advantages that other countries do not give them? I remember the speech made some time ago by the hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans). He said the Minister of Finance came back happily from talking to the Americans. I believe he thought the Americans probably asked him one question: What are you doing about taxes on resource industries, and he said, "nothing". Of course, the Americans were very happy because here they had this tax holiday and all the handouts. The sooner Liberal party members and a few Conservatives take a stand on this issue, the sooner will the average Canadian have a better opportunity to get involved in the economy and start developing it for himself and his family.

A lot of politicians in the United States and other countries are taking a hard look at the handouts given to the multinational corporations. Look at all the things McGovern is saying in his campaign in the United States about the tax loopholes for the super-rich. If this country were to revise its taxation system, in particular its treatment of the resource industries, more funds would be available for the expansion of manufacturing industry and the service industries. The result would be more jobs for Canadians and an economy which was owned and controlled by Canadians rather than by foreign interests.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

An hon. Member: Continue.

Mr. Nystrom: May I have one more minute?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I could listen to the hon. member for one more minute, for five, for ten more even, if there were unanimous consent. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Nystrom: There were many other things I was going to say, but I shall conclude by saying I think we have to act now if we are to repatriate our economy. I want to conclude by saying many people believe that if we had tougher laws, if we had more control, we would be scaring away some of the investment that is here. I should like to say that that is a lot of nonsense. There are rules and regulations in other countries. Why cannot there be any here?

I have here a clipping from the *Leader-Post* of March 31. The article refers to United States oil companies investing in Algeria. They are going to invest in Algeria. They are also talking about investing in the Soviet Union. So, I am sure they will invest in Canada. They expect us to have some rules and regulations. I do not think they will avoid us if we do lay down these rules. They should pay their fair share, and if they do things will be better for the average Canadian. This is the type of thing in which I am interested.

Foreign Takeovers Review Act

• (1550)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to make a few remarks concerning Bill C-201, which provides for the review of acquisitions of control of Canadian business enterprises by foreign investors.

If I rise on this matter, it is because I feel that the Quebec people are very much concerned about the economic independence of Canada and the threat which foreign capital represents. Moreover, the people of my constituency of Saint-Jacques have every reason to be especially concerned about this. On the one hand, as many hon. members know, this constituency includes St. James St. and Dorchester Blvd, in Montreal, which are at the center of the economic activities of the whole of eastern Canada, and the officials of these firms are impatiently awaiting the decisions which the House will make in connection with this bill.

Similarly, most residents of Saint-Jacques who are in contact with financial circles earn a very modest salary. Quite a few are unemployed. Making allowance for the employment situation, they are very eager to know the decisions taken by the House concerning foreign investments.

This being said, I would like to comment on the decision of the government to deal with the foreign investment issue. As for me, the government's decision is realistic. Of course, some of my friends are already saying that I am not serious, but it is obvious that some people will accuse the government of being too weak in this respect whereas others will say that the government went too far. It is always easy to say such things when you just have to deliver a speech before the House and when you are not responsible for the administration of the country.

However, this government is responsible for the administration of the country and, when they make decisions, they have to consider the effects these decisions will have on the Canadian economy and on the standard of living in Canada. That is why I say the decision made by the government is realistic. In fact, the question is to proceed gradually rather than to take drastic steps that could harm the present state of the economy in Canada.

Obviously, according to our colleagues of the New Democratic Party, we are not going far enough. To them, there should be short term guarantees of complete economic independence for Canada. As the hon. member said who spoke before me, this is a policy for buying back foreign companies set up in Canada and we all recognize that this type of policy would be a waste of money. To my mind, we would be better off investing our money in new undertakings, instead of using it to buy companies already in operation and which create jobs, even though they belong to foreigners.

To my mind, economic independence, as some members of the Waffle group would have it, is an utopia, for our economy is no longer independent nor will it ever be. Like the economy of every country in the free world, ours is an international and interdependent economy. It is pointless to try to escape that reality.