

In practice the agency has been secretive and capricious, and . . . has driven away many would-be investors through bureaucratic inertia . . . a continuation of FIRA provides just the wrong signal at a time of capital flight by Canadian and foreign investors alike.

Amen. All the criticism has not come solely from the United States. In August 1982, the West German Economics Minister said that Canada could move closer to recovery and secure new markets for its energy, if only it would drop its trade barriers and relax nationally-oriented policies.

Mr. Oberle: Those are my people.

Mr. Stewart: The Hon. Member says that those are his people, and I agree with him. He called FIRA and the NEP "hindrances that impair the investment climate of your country". That is about to change. It is like a breath of fresh air. A new day has dawned. The PCs are here and Canada is on the way straight up.

The underlying theme behind the criticisms of FIRA has not been so much over the approval rate, but over the potential investors who never even bothered to try to get through the plodding, bureaucratic mess. That has been the problem. We are now sending out a message to potential investors that Canada is again open for business. The door is open and the till is ready to ring.

FIRA has been a hindrance and a millstone since the day it was created. It is a bureaucratic nightmare. Since that time it has grown increasingly irrelevant. As *The Globe and Mail* pointed out a year ago, FIRA was set up in 1974 by a minority Liberal Government, but it came too late to fight the last war over high foreign ownership in the economy in the 1950s and 1960s, and now it is ill equipped for the next war, fighting for new business investment in the 1980s. If we are to survive as Canadians, we have to be out in the jungle, which is known as the world market-place. Let us put it to rest and bring in a new agency that encourages investment in Canada. Let us welcome it with open arms and not be so silly. That investment will create jobs for my children and your children. It will help take away that deficit which is a millstone around the youth of this nation. Job priority is the top priority. It comes from doing such things as, first of all, getting rid of FIRA.

How is it that the opposition Members can claim that we will lose jobs by bringing new investment into this country? That is the most ludicrous thing I have ever heard. How can they demand a stronger FIRA to protect jobs that do not exist? That was pointed out by my colleague to the left. Is it not obvious that the Liberal policies of the past 16 years, which the NDP so strongly supported, have brought us to the point we are at today? Is it not obvious that Canadians voted for change and that we are providing that change? It must not be because we still hear criticism.

Why do the opposition Parties continue to criticize the policies that were so strongly endorsed by Canadians on September 4? It was all put out in front of them. I dare say that there is not one of us on the government side who did not make speech after speech deriding and decrying FIRA and stating that we would change it. Every Canadian knew that.

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They continued to defend the policies that were so clearly rejected by that mass of voters. Perhaps that explains why they are surrounded by government Members on that side of the House. How much stronger does the message have to be before they realize that the policies of the past which they cling to, as our government House Leaders says, like Velcro, are irrelevant to the vast majority of Canadians in the 1980s? What was ever accomplished in North America by socialism? Nothing.

Bill C-15 is timely, relevant, positive, constructive and worth-while. It is what Canadians want and it is what they are going to get. I would urge all members of the opposition Parties to look to the left, to the right and then to support this legislation which Canadians want and so desperately need. Let us bring investment capital into Canada and create jobs for the 1.5 million unemployed ordinary Canadians, whom we in the P.C. Party support, who want to work but have been denied the opportunity to do so by the harmful Liberal policies, backed up by the little bit of ambience to their left over the past 16 years. Have the courage once to vote for change.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, it has been fascinating listening to the Member make his speech. It has been an interesting combination; first a little speech for the people back home who say, "My goodness, I think Barrie should have prevented the shut down of the Black & Decker plant", organized carefully for a clip on the TV station. Then, somebody clearly drafted for him a speech extolling the virtues of eliminating the agency that he just got finished saying should have stood up and protected the workers in his dome city. He carefully read the speech without recognizing the immense contradiction in which he was involved.

At the very least, as he stood and talked about the new day that had dawned, he should have blushed. The new day that dawned after the election for the 600 workers in the Black & Decker plant in his constituency was a bleak and desperate day, a day in which their jobs were lost and in which this Government was presented with a challenge. This is the whole point of this debate: The existence of a review mechanism by the name of FIRA—it could have a different name or a slightly different approach—has given the workers of Barrie the chance to appeal the shutdown decided on by Black & Decker.

The Hon. Member is well acquainted with what is taking place in his constituency. He must realize that those workers came to Ottawa. They were able to meet with the staff of the Ministry of Regional Industrial Expansion. They were able to present to the Minister careful information, which contradicted the information which Black & Decker had provided to FIRA. As a result of the existence of that review mechanism, which he now wants to strip away, the Minister had Black & Decker come to him and provide a fresh explanation. The trade union involved is now taking that Minister to court to ask the Minister to intervene to protect their jobs under this piece of legislation of which he wants to get rid.

We have here a classic case of workers and communities being able to use FIRA to try to protect themselves. Instead of this Member standing up and supporting his community and