

doing in the most gleeful fashion. I would say that is also true in the area of training programs, industrial programs, and we can go right across the board. What has this Government changed since it came into office? What has it dismantled other than FIRA?

We simply point out that we are not against foreign investment. I would ask the Minister who asks us to look at the record, to look at the record himself. In the last year of our Government, close to \$4 billion of foreign investment came into Canada. The difference is that 40 per cent was based upon an upgrading of that investment to ensure that the jobs, research and development and the world products mandate would be retained for Canadian firms. That is the difference.

The Minister talks about Mitel. I am surprised that a gentleman who used to have some experience in the business world does not understand the difference between holding an equity position and having control of the company. I would assume that surely a Minister of Industrial and Regional Expansion might have some scintilla of understanding that it is control which is important, because that is where the decisions are made. It is not simply holding a piece of the action, it is where the control and management lie. The difference in the Mitel take-over and CTG is that where the management has taken over, that's where the control is.

The Minister doesn't care about that, but in our committees we heard from the business community itself that it is those companies which are not controlled and managed by Canadians which have the poorest record in R & D and which bring in far more import to this country, which affects our balance of payments, and those companies, in fact, employ fewer Canadians. We are concerned about jobs, not about the kind of nonsense the Minister is talking about.

I have a couple of specific questions for the Minister because he, perhaps I could say, deliberately evaded the issue of book publishing in his remarks. With respect to Prentice-Hall of Canada Ltd., can we expect a decision immediately? Will this Minister go forward and try to find and solicit Canadian buyers for that particular company? Will he establish a very clear statement in the publishing industry, as our Government did, that the dominant element must be Canadian? Will he make that statement? Will he reject the application of Gulf Western to take over Prentice-Hall in the recent application for Ginn and Co. and Longman Inc. which will also take out two very major firms in the Canadian text book trade? What is this Minister waiting for? If he believes in Canadian culture, why does he not make a decision today and turn down these applications?

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I noticed how you almost burst out laughing the more you listened to the Hon. Member.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Orlikow: You know you can't do that.

Mr. Axworthy: That shows your disdain for Parliament.

Supply

Mr. Stevens: How inconsistent can the Hon. Member get? In the body of his remarks he said we were doing nothing, that I was sitting here and taking no action. Then, in the guise of a question, he said we were using too many of the former Government's programs, that we were spending money. He referred to ERDA as something which had been put in place by the former Government. Of course, as we know, it was unable to sign such an agreement with the Province of Quebec. It was unable or unwilling to sign one with the Province of Ontario. It was unable or unwilling to sign one with the Province of British Columbia. Within months we signed those agreements.

Mr. Axworthy: Seven out of three is the record?

Mr. Stevens: And we have concluded some agreements with all of the provinces to a fuller extent than certainly was done before. Yesterday, you will recall, Mr. Speaker, we also announced that the largest funding arrangement in history, between the Province of British Columbia and the federal Government, has now been agreed to. It is for \$525 million. How on earth can the Hon. Member then stand up and say we are doing nothing? The fact is, and it is an embarrassing fact for the Hon. Member and his associates, we are doing too much; there is too much change, including the fact we are once again encouraging non-Canadian investment along with Canadian investment in this country. It is change that this reactionary group cannot seem to adjust to. As far as I am concerned, it is time that the democratic will was allowed to be recorded in this House and that we get on, for the sake of the unemployed, with creating a new mechanism which will encourage instead of discourage investment in this country once again.

● (1210)

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, as a new Member of Parliament, it is interesting to try and relate to some of the debate that takes place in the House of Commons. I think many of us who are new Members of Parliament have had some sense of frustration at what we might call the role playing, the synthetic conflict, the sometimes empty, sometimes exaggerated rhetoric which occasionally dominates this House. If I possibly can, I want to try to break through that rhetoric to ask all of us as reasonable, thoughtful and caring men and women to focus on a very real problem in a very real way. I want to confront that problem and I would like us to try and understand the problem. I would hope that it might be possible for all of us as Members of Parliament to work together to try and deal with this problem. For that reason I want to talk today almost exclusively about the Mitel takeover by British Telecom, because the problem is Canada's weakness, our sense of incapacity in technological development, and the consequent problems for the unemployed in this country.

It would be possible to underline some of the points of outrage which have been raised by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy). There were amendments we moved which I would very much like to have had a