

Investment Canada Act

Mr. Nystrom: I rise on a point of order. Just to clarify the record, the Member from the Liberal Party was inviting the Hon. Member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton to cross the floor and join the Liberal Party. My understanding is that the Hon. Member said "I have already been there". I did not know he was a member of the Liberal Party and I just want to make sure that was clear on the record.

Mr. Dick: That is irrelevant.

Mr. Boudria: I am sure you recognize that is not a point of order but it is an interesting point nevertheless. The Hon. Member admitted to being a member of a party on this side but I thought he had been a member of the NDP, not the Liberals. Be that as it may, I was discussing the fact that this motion talks about having a more open government. The Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mrs. Mailly), I know, wants a more open government. She has often spoken about various issues in the past which made me believe that she wants a more open government. It seems that perhaps she traded her opinion on this issue for a bridge or something to be constructed in her riding. Perhaps we will find out later when the Member returns.

• (1510)

I would like to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the fact that in the past the Conservative Party has spoken on the Foreign Investment Review Agency in conflicting ways. That is not to say, of course, that they have been two-faced on the issue. As an example, on the issue of the take-over of Black & Decker it was interesting to see that the Conservative Member for that area was, on one hand, telling the people of his riding that he was helpless in the issue of the take-over of Black & Decker by GE and in protecting the jobs because, in his view, the FIRA legislation was not strong enough. Hearing a Conservative advocating stronger foreign investment legislation is enough to make the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) want to stand in his place and immediately withdraw the Bill. Perhaps the Hon. Member for that riding, who raised that issue, should demand the Minister's resignation on this issue. However, we do not see that happening.

Conservative Members are not even permitted to speak. Their Party Whip, House Leader, and others, have seemingly tied them to their seats and rendered them unable to speak. The Hon. Member from Simcoe has said in the past that we need stronger foreign investment legislation. We can only assume that that was a Conservative view stated by a Conservative Member of Parliament. I am sure that when the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion reads *Hansard* to find out what was said in the House of Commons today, he will suddenly discover what a great mistake he has made in introducing this legislation. Hopefully he will withdraw the Bill. Failing that, perhaps he could approve the amendment that was presented just now by our colleague.

We know, of course, Mr. Speaker, where the Government stands on foreign investment. In the past they have said in the House that they want Canada to be open for business. Every-

one wants Canada to be open for business, mainly because it was never closed. We all know that. I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, being the non-partisan person that you are, will recall that Canada has always been open for business. Somehow the Conservatives have been dreaming in technicolour that Canada was closed for business, even though FIRA approved 97 per cent of the applications it received, and even though some Conservative Members, especially from the Simcoe area, said that FIRA had to be strengthened in order to protect jobs at Black & Decker.

Notwithstanding those very strong views and those important issues, the Government is going right ahead with this regressive legislation. Hopefully there will be some salvation in that they will now at least approve of the amendments which we are discussing at the present time.

Foreign investment must be done in such a way as to ensure protection for jobs in the country. It is not that foreign investment is not wanted by all of us.

I would like to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that we do not seem to have a quorum at the present time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I will ask the Deputy Clerk to count the Members present.

And the count having been taken:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): There is no quorum so I ask that the bells be rung.

And the bells having been rung:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): There is now a quorum so we will proceed with the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

Mr. Boudria: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see the Conservative Members back in the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Where are the Liberals?

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think the Member has been in the House long enough to know that he is not supposed to refer to the presence or absence of Members, or to the fact that all the Liberals walked out of the house to create the quorum call in the first place.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. I think that perhaps several points were made, including the one by the Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes). If everyone agrees, we can hear the conclusion of the speech by the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I, of course, never referred to any individual Member being absent from the House. I am just glad to see that collectively there is more participation in this Chamber this afternoon.

For the benefit of those who have not heard, we were discussing the issue of the amendments proposed in group No. 8 in relation to Bill C-15. The issue is openness in government. You really cannot discuss openness in government without