

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Don Valley East (Mr. Attewell)—Human Rights—U.S.S.R. Representations on behalf of Jewish population; the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Health—Testing of toxic hormone to control cockroaches; and the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet)—Transport—Construction of VIA Rail maintenance plant. Government position. (b) Transport industry's fragility in Montreal—Government position.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

INVESTMENT CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-15, an Act respecting investment in Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Regional Development; and Motions Nos. 8, 12, 32, 63, 69, 74 and 75 (Mr. Langdon) (p. 4242).

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel-Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, before speaking to Bill C-15, an Act respecting investment in Canada, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a problem arising from the translation of Motion No. 12 from English into French. I would invite my Francophone colleagues on the other side of the House to try and understand what I am going to read to them. The text reads as follows, and I quote:

g) de recueillir périodiquement des renseignements sur le rendement des entreprises canadiennes lorsque ce n'est pas contrôlé par des non-Canadiens et de les rendre publics appartenant à des non-Canadiens et expressément interdit par la législation fédérale;».

And this is what it is supposed to say, in English:

[English]

(g) regularly compile and make public information, where not expressly prohibited by federal legislation, pertaining to the performance of Canadian businesses owned and controlled by non-Canadians;”.

Investment Canada Act

• (1610)

[Translation]

I wanted to bring this error to the attention of the House, Mr. Speaker, because it is unacceptable, and I hope it will not happen too often.

To go back to the matter at issue, in proposing Motions Nos. 8, 12, 32, 63, 69, 74 and 75, the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Langdon) is asking, first of all, that the Government make public the results of research and analysis with respect to investment applications. Second, in Motion No. 63, the Hon. Member is asking that the Government also make public its ruling, including all undertakings made in connection with the investment. Third, in Motion No. 74, the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor asks that the Governor-in-Council make public all reasons for disallowing applications. That, Mr. Speaker, is the essence of the amendments we are now considering.

I hope the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mrs. Tardif) has taken note that I am indeed speaking to the amendments.

Members on the other side of the House seem to think that we in the Opposition take a special delight in nit-picking. That is certainly not the case. However, we do want to defend the interests of our fellow citizens, and it is the Opposition's role to ensure that the Government does not cause grave injustice to be done.

In my riding, Mr. Speaker, a young man under 30 is trying to succeed with his company which makes tofu, a protein-substitute cheese for meat widely used in hospitals and prisons. So one day he came to my riding office to tell me about the difficulty he was having to find out from the federal Government whether a competitor plant in another city in Canada had received a federal Government grant, which he thought was unfair. I had a hard time myself and it was weeks before I finally got the information. Information is the current buzz word. This is legislation on information. We are trying to make it easier for our fellow citizens and Canadian entrepreneurs to invest their savings wisely.

The administrative machinery is complicated enough as it is. I had hopes, but now I am rather doubtful because nobody on the other side of the House appears anxious to rise and debate our proposals. The logic of those motions is crystal clear, we want to make sure that there is no possibility of conflict of interest. Canadian and foreign investors must be able to rely on the vigilance of this Government. This series of motions introduced by our New Democratic Party colleagues touch upon a rather delicate aspect of the federal administration—openness and ready access to information. No Government can operate properly unless it is quite prepared to report to the public and its representatives on the situation of the federal administration.