

I remind you again of the issue I raised with you only a few days ago about the member from the Simcoe area who stated publicly that FIRA had not been strong enough to stop the take over of the Black & Decker factory in his riding and the eventual loss of hundreds of jobs. This was a Conservative member saying that FIRA was not strong enough. I am sure that when he is given the opportunity to vote on this Bill he will stand up and vote against the proposed Investment Canada legislation; he has already stated that the existing legislation needs to be strengthened, not destroyed. I find it unusual that that Member, who made such strong statements, did not participate in this debate. I challenge him now to stand up and make a contribution on the record, indicating how his constituents feel about this issue. He was quite forceful during last summer's election campaign when he talked to the good people of Barrie. He told them that he, as a Member of a Government of his Party, would not have allowed that take-over. They won that election and are in power—not that I like it, but nevertheless they are in power temporarily until the next election. They had promised to strengthen the legislation to ensure that there would not be take-overs that would unduly affect their constituents.

● (1120)

Rather than introducing measures to help small business, to assist the farmers of the country, or the people on social assistance, the Government's first priority was to help out the large multinational corporations. That is the priority of the Tories, Mr. Speaker. What happened to the beautiful promises they made to the people of Canada? They forgot them. They made 338 promises and probably around 325 of them will never be fulfilled.

That is enough to cause a backbench revolt by some of those very forceful Tory backbenchers who want the Government to do something to help small business and want to strengthen investment review legislation in order to ensure that jobs are not lost. Instead, they sit on their hands in the House, not even making a contribution. They do not say a word while the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion is perpetrating this vicious attack on the Canadianization of our industries. When the Bill was introduced all Members on the Government side who were in the House that day applauded the legislation. They sat in their places applauding legislation which was contrary to the promises they made to the voters of their riding in the last election campaign.

The Government should withdraw the Bill entirely. However, the very least it can do is to approve whole-heartedly and speak in favour of Motion 19 as proposed by my colleague.

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to make a few remarks on this fourth group of amendments and to indicate my support, as well as that of other New Democrats, for Motion Nos. 19 and 20. Motion No. 19 was moved by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), and Motion No. 20 was moved on behalf of the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Langdon).

### *Investment Canada Act*

Both of these motions relate to Clause 6 of the Bill which reads:

There is hereby established an agency, to be known as Investment Canada, to advise and assist the Minister in exercising his powers and performing his duties under this Act.

● (1125)

Both of these motions are intended to ensure that this agency known as Investment Canada will have a degree of independence and will be able to perform the functions for which it is intended. While Investment Canada is supposed to assist the Minister, we believe that the assistance the Minister needs must be of a very broad nature.

Motion No. 20 reads:

That Bill C-15, be amended in Clause 6 by adding immediately after line 14 at page 5 the following:

"(2) The Agency shall have the power to ask for policy directives from the Governor in Council as it deems necessary."

Very simply, we on this side of the House believe that Investment Canada should be able to appeal to the entire Cabinet rather than be completely under the thumb of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens).

Clause 7 of the Bill states that the Governor in Council shall appoint a person to be the president of the agency, to hold office during pleasure. Clause 9 points out that other officers and employees of the agency will be appointed in accordance with the Public Service Employment Act. The president will be appointed by the Governor in Council. We hope that the president will not simply be another patronage pay-off to another Tory hack.

We urge the Government to implement its promise that there will be an all-party committee of the House that will vet senior appointments such as this to ensure that we do have a president of Investment Canada who will have an independent mind, a broad grasp of the issues and an understanding of the implications of Investment Canada, particularly with respect to investment by non-Canadians in a great many areas. Some of those areas that are particularly sensitive include culture, energy and resource development.

We believe it is necessary to appoint someone of independent mind, with a broad capacity to be aware of the implications affecting these many areas. That person should be able to receive advice from employees in the agency, because many concerns will go far beyond the scope of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Although there are 40 Cabinet Ministers, far too much power is already concentrated in the hands of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. A number of Ministers, such as the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew), do not have their own departments and we believe that if we are to have 40 Cabinet Ministers they all should have some real power. That is the reason for our Motion No. 20 that would give Investment Canada the right to appeal to the entire Cabinet.

Bill C-15 will increase the power of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion to a dangerous level. We have already