



CANADA

House of Commons Debates

VOLUME 144 | NUMBER 083 | 2nd SESSION | 40th PARLIAMENT

OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Speaker: The Honourable Peter Milliken

ORAL QUESTIONS

Industry – Nortel`s Wireless Assets

Hon. Geoff Regan (Halifax West, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, it was forced to intervene in the MacDonald Dettwiler case, but it is clear the government has absolutely no interest in promoting Canadian knowledge-based industries or protecting Canadian jobs.

The industry minister's decision regarding Nortel is disappointing and disturbing. It is the latest in a series of shortsighted decisions that are putting jobs at risk in the high tech sector, affecting the future of companies like Research in Motion.

Why will the Conservatives not do the right thing and stand up for the 600 proud RIM employees in my riding in Nova Scotia?

Hon. Tony Clement (Minister of Industry, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the member who represents the Montreal riding is not asking that question because there are hundreds of employees of Ericsson in his riding. This is the kind of game the Liberal Party plays on these kinds of issues.

We are applying the law. We apply the law equally to Canadian companies and to foreign-based companies. That is how the rule of law works when it comes to foreign investment.

On that side of the House, the Liberals are willing to change the law to suit their own protectionist purposes. That will not help Canadian companies when they seek to invest in other countries. That is why we are on the side of the law; that is why we are on the side of Canadian business and will continue to be.