

*Oral Questions*

clear, and responsible leadership on an economic basis. I certainly would not, however, follow the route suggested by my hon. friend, which is not only naive but would be irresponsible in the circumstances.

## ROLE OF CHARTERED BANKS—INCREASE IN PROFITS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate to point out that, because of the policies of the Minister of Finance, as he is trying to keep down interest rates and trying to provide economic leadership, the obvious winners have been the banks. We found out just the other day that in 1983 there were hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars in bank profits. As a matter of fact, the domestic profits of the Royal Bank of Canada were up 130 per cent in 1983 over 1982, some of the highest in Canadian banking history. Why is it that the Minister of Finance continues to take direction from the banks? Why does he not start paying some attention to the people of this country, and introduce an interest rate policy which reflects people as opposed to bank profits?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the more I hear the Hon. Member the more I think that he should be a member of the Social Credit Party rather than of the New Democratic Party.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lalonde:** I am not saying the Social Credit Party of British Columbia. I mean the genuine Social Credit Party of Major Douglas himself.

I am not taking directions or instructions from the banks. I have consulted with all kinds of groups of Canadians in the preparation of last two Budgets, labour leaders, representatives of business, farmers, consumers, women's groups. This I have done and intend to continue to do. The policies I have put forward are policies which I have arrived at following all those consultations. They are aimed at helping the average Canadian and making sure that we will create jobs over the next few years in the private sector where the jobs should be created, particularly in the small and medium-sized business sector. This is the gist of my last Budget as well as of the previous Budget, and I intend to pursue those policies because I believe those policies are the ones which are going to be best for the country.

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## CROWN CORPORATIONS

## ROLE OF BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board I would like to address my question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The new Crown corporation legislation fails to address the priority problem with respect to the role of the boards of directors in Crown corporations. In light of the fact that Governor in

Council appointments of chairmen and chief executive officers ignore all the recommendations of the Lambert Royal Commission, of the Auditor General and of the Public Accounts Committee, could the Right Hon. Prime Minister tell us why the Government has not addressed this most essential element in Crown corporation accountability?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Bill does address the subject, probably not in the way in which the Hon. Member would have done it, but that is not surprising. If the Hon. Member wants to argue the substance of the Bill, we will ensure that he will have a chance to do that early on second reading.

EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATION OF INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, if the Bill is so good why has it not covered, and in fact ignored, 109 mixed and joint enterprises and their subsidiaries? Perhaps the Right Hon. Prime Minister could also explain why the International Development Research Council has been given complete special exemption?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in the latter case it is because the IDRC is a very special type of corporation. As the Hon. Member probably knows, it is composed 50 per cent, roughly, of directors who are not Canadian citizens. They are nationals of other countries. This was done when the Bill was first passed by this Parliament more than ten years ago. It was to ensure that this agency, which is exemplary in the sense it is being used as an example for other countries which want to follow Canada's lead in establishing a research centre on North-South problems, will not be carrying out the policies of government. This corporation is in a very special situation, and that is why we have treated it differently.

As far as the first part of the question on directors is concerned, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to a lot of joint corporations. I do not know the examples he has in mind. However, they are not presumably Crown corporations. They are corporations in which the Government of Canada has some shares, but not the control.

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## TRADE

ACCESS FOR NEWSPRINT TO EUROPEAN ECONOMIC  
COMMUNITY

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. I want to draw his attention to the action by the European Economic Community in restricting duty free access for newsprint from 1.5 million tonnes to 500,000 tonnes. This action has now been referred to GATT. I want to know from the Minister just what the federal Government is doing to state the Canadian case before GATT and to ensure that this