

appear again very shortly, as I indicated. I am sure he would be very happy to deal with that question.

Mr. Wilson: These appointments are the responsibility of the Prime Minister. Surely the Prime Minister can ask the questions. Why did this \$1.5 billion loss to the Canadian taxpayers happen? What was the role of the directors, and what was their responsibility for this?

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, does the Prime Minister attach any responsibility to that board of directors for the loss of \$1.5 billion of taxpayers' money?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am not in a position to say if they are responsible or not.

An Hon. Member: Who is?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Madam Speaker, let the Opposition get its act together. In his first question the Hon. Member asked why did Senator Austin recommend or ensure the reappointment of the same people. I am saying that that Senator, as the Minister responsible, will appear before the committee. He will be happy to answer this question.

TASK FORCE REPORT—DIRECTORS CRITICIZED

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question on the issue of whether the board is responsible. Is the Prime Minister aware that in 1982 a task force report, which was attached to the Treasury Board submission which approved the authorization of \$1.3 billion in loan guarantees to this Company, clearly indicated that the board of directors was responsible for at least \$150 million of the loss directly? Of course, legally it is responsible for the whole mess. In view of that, can the Prime Minister please explain to this House why it was that this June, in a semi-secret fashion, that entire board should be reappointed, in view of the fact that the Government's own internal task force indicated the board was not fulfilling its responsibilities?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, that is a repetition of the very same question which was asked of me by the previous questioner. I told him I did not have the answer, that I refer the question to the Minister who will be appearing before the parliamentary committee very shortly.

REQUEST THAT AUDITOR GENERAL UNDERTAKE COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister has indicated he approved that \$1.5 billion, approximately, without the benefit of the information which the task force attached to that approval.

Oral Questions

The Prime Minister earlier indicated his theory of parliamentary democracy, that Parliament should not be concerned about day-to-day operations of Crown corporations. Apparently he does not feel that Ministers should be held responsible either, because he has not called any to account for this \$2 billion they have lost. Will he at least give some comfort to this House and to the people of Canada who are paying these funds, and show that he cares, by appointing the Auditor General to undertake a comprehensive audit and be there from now on, so that we might know there will not be any more hundreds of millions of dollars wasted?

● (1450)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am afraid the more recent questions are undoing all the good the Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Member for Joliette had established earlier. They are rehashing the questions I heard in this House last Spring at a time when that Opposition was trying to destroy Canadair by preventing the Government from forwarding funds to keep it alive.

Mr. Stevens: That is wrong, and you know it.

Mr. Trudeau: Once again they should get their act together and follow the new lead of the new Leader of the Opposition.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

USE OF INFORMERS BY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. The RCMP offered a constituent of mine the opportunity to become an informer in return for the dropping of criminal charges against him. This case came to a close in Whitehorse on Monday of this week. Would the Solicitor General advise this House what his views are on the use of bargaining by the RCMP for the dropping of criminal charges so long as the person charged will become an informer?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member stated the proposition I can certainly say that I do not agree with it, and it would not be Force policy to allow that type of negotiation to occur. But I would like to have the opportunity to look into the particular incident he describes before concluding whether his description is accurate and whether steps should be taken by me in connection with it.

REPORTED OFFER TO IMPAIRED DRIVERS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, would the Minister of Justice confirm that he is aware of cases where people charged with criminal offences such as impaired driving have been put in a position where the RCMP have bargained that away on the grounds that those people become informers? Would he also advise that he has been made aware by Judge