

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Are there any questions or comments?

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mr. Robinson) whether he believes all that he said in his speech, including the portion dealing with Canadair. Does he really and truly believe that?

Mr. Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I believe it is Chronicles III in the Bible which talks about faith, hope and charity. I believe it has now been changed in the modern version to faith, hope and love. I have faith, I have love of my country, and I have hope. If the Hon. Member has as much hope as I have for this and will work as hard to make it work, it will be successful.

● (1650)

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I do not think any Members of the House would disagree. We all have faith and hope, and, to a greater or lesser degree, I think we all have some charity. I asked the Member whether he believes all that he said, including all that he said about Canadair in his speech.

Mr. Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my friend reminds me of a doubting Thomas, if I may refer to the good book again. I personally am a believer. When I cease to be a believer, I will not be here.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member misunderstood the question. We were simply giving him the opportunity to disassociate himself personally from some of the things which were contained in his speech as compared to associating himself, quite naturally, in terms of his parliamentary responsibility. If he wishes to take the opportunity to disassociate himself personally from some of the contents of his speech, I will give him the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, let me say this. If the positive points which I made in my speech do not come to fruition, I will certainly be taking exception to it and will agree with the Hon. Member.

Mr. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify something with regard to the Hon. Member's speech. The Conservative Party makes a great deal about divesting itself of Crown corporations. The Government has indicated that part of the rationale behind CDIC is that at some stage it will divest itself of Crown corporations. With regard to the fishing industry, that was made fairly clear by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané) in the Bill.

At what stage do we divest ourselves of these Crown corporations? At what point do we feel that we have had an adequate return on the taxpayers' investment in those corporations? Are we going to divest them as soon as they become profitable and become a source of interest in the private sector? Or, are we going to demand that for all that public investment there is going to be an adequate return to pay the taxpayer for saving those industries and saving the jobs which we have had to save in the fishing industry and returning the

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\$138 million, if it is under the Fisheries Bill, to the Canadian purse? At what point do we divest ourselves and what return do we expect for the Canadian public?

Mr. Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Hon. Member's altruistic motives. I am sure it is altruistic motives that are contained in the Bill, and the reasons for providing them. I do not think that as yet we have decided upon the policies as to when we would divest ourselves of the assets. Surely it is going to have to be actuarially sound. There would probably not be too many people interested in acquiring the business unless it was making a profit. I see nothing wrong with making a profit, whether by the Government or private enterprise.

Mr. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the point I was trying to make was whether we write off all the investment that the Canadian public has made in that industry at the point that it becomes profitable and the private sector is interested in buying it, or do we demand that we make some profit to return to the taxpayer who bailed out an industry that was badly managed by private enterprise?

Mr. Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I would venture to say that quite a number of items would have to be considered before that decision could be made. Obviously, we do not want to continue losing money in a losing venture. If we spent a lot of money, we would like to have a recovery for the people of Canada who invested their money in the enterprise through Government. One must make a judgment based on the facts at a particular time. Whether we are making or losing money at the time is a decision which would have to be made at that particular time. To say anything other than that would be purely speculative at this point in time.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mr. Robinson) in much of his speech dealt with Canadair and the bad shape it is in. Is he aware that the Government of Canada forced General Dynamics to sell what is Canadair to the Government of Canada because the Government of Canada wanted to get into a different type of manufacturing of airplanes than General Dynamics wanted to get into? At the time General Dynamics did not want to sell and, as a matter of fact, still has a working relationship with Canadair.

Mr. Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I can neither confirm nor deny the allegations which are made by the Hon. Member. That is something which could be looked into. I am sure the Department would be only too glad to provide him with the facts.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member was talking about Massey-Ferguson and referring to majority shareholders, was he aware that at the time that the largest shareholder owned only 17 per cent of Massey-Ferguson, it offered to invest more money if the Government wished to participate at the time? The Government refused to participate at the time and the only way they could get the Government to participate