

*Oral Questions*

addition, the country suffered further population losses from mass deportations and the decimation of its intellectual elite.

In addition, the month of June, 1940, is recalled by Baltic peoples throughout the world as the most devastating time of their countries' history. Between the 15th and 17th of June, 1940, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, all neutral and prospering countries, were occupied by the Soviets. These three countries are, even today, still under the oppressive influence of the Soviets.

The service this Wednesday at Notre Dame Basilica, commemorating the sufferings of the Baltic and Ukraine nations, will serve to remind us of one of the most threatening aspects of communism, and of the fundamental rights our often taken for granted freedom gives us.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### CROWN CORPORATIONS

#### CANADAIR—ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOSSES

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Today Canadian taxpayers learned that government owned Canadair lost \$1.4 billion in 1982, mainly through the Challenger executive jet program, one of the greatest corporate nosedives in our history. The Government also admitted that \$1 billion will never be recovered. It is just money down the drain.

Since the Auditor General has warned that spending by Canadair was beyond the control of Parliament, and since the Liberal Government bought Canadair seven years ago, why did the Government blow away \$1 billion worth of taxpayers' money before taking steps to correct this situation?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member might be reminded of the rule that a matter which is being discussed in committee is not the subject matter of debate or questions in Parliament. The Minister responsible for the whole matter is in front of a committee of this House this very day. The Hon. Member knows, or she should know if she is interested in the question for real, that the matter is being discussed there, and under the rules she should attend that committee and find out what is going on.

**Mr. Beatty:** It is up to the Speaker to decide; not you.

#### MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister

because it is well known that issues of this importance can be brought before the House of Commons.

The Minister responsible for Canadair is blaming Canadair's management for the company's problems, claiming executives gave its shareholders—who are the Canadian taxpayers—misleading information about sales, delivery, and future prospects. For instance, the company was estimating the sale of 48 Challengers this year. In fact only one has been sold. If corporate mismanagement is the villain, why did the Government appoint some of Canadair's management to the board of the new super Crown agency, the Canadian Development Investment Corporation, Canadair's new owner? If the management was so poor, why did the Government not clean house?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is clearly in breach of the rules. She is making a speech now, probably for the benefit of television, when she should be in committee asking these questions of the Minister responsible.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I feel that I can allow the question. The Right Hon. Prime Minister is not obligated to answer the question. However, I feel I can allow the question because the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre is not referring to discussions which took place in committee. The Hon. Member is discussing a subject which can be allowed in Question Period.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss Carney:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

#### FUNDING OF CORPORATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** I would like to direct my final supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. The Auditor General has reported in the past that the Government has risked \$1.35 billion of taxpayers' money on Canadair by issuing letters of comfort which are beyond the scrutiny or control of Parliament. It is clear that the \$240 million in new funding now before Parliament would not even pay the interest on the company's debt this year, let alone the payroll costs, or even its bills.

Was the Government informed last October that taxpayers may have to spend another \$500 million to \$1 billion to bail out Canadair? Does the Government have any plans to commit more funds to Canadair this year to support the Challenger program? And, if not, how will the company survive?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, there are estimates before the parliamentary committee for, I believe, \$240 million, which is exactly an injection of equity into Canadair. The Minister responsible for Canadair, as the Prime Minister has indicated, is appearing before both the Public Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee, and