

property owned by the Government of Canada governed by this act.

Is that what we want to do? Is that what we want to give to the federal cabinet, whether it be this cabinet or the new cabinet that will be sworn in once a Liberal government is elected? Do we want to give a cabinet the authority to sell off assets without reference to the House of Commons?

I submit not. That would lead to secret back room deals. There would not even be a central depository where the documents relating to the sale would have to be deposited or filed so that Canadians could see the nature of the contract or see through some of these potential back room deals.

The ramifications of Bill C-3 are far-reaching. As I indicated when I began speaking I did not intend to speak on Bill C-3. However I became concerned earlier today when I saw the minister stand up and applaud the NDP and the NDP stand up and applaud the minister. When the NDP and the government are in bed together one knows that something is amiss. Then I understood why the NDP might be supporting Bill C-3. It was an NDP government in the province of Ontario that sold off the SkyDome, is in the process of literally giving the SkyDome away in order to plug a few holes that it has in its fiscal and financial situation.

As my colleague from Ottawa indicated, you do not sell the furniture to pay the rent. That is what Bobby Rae and the rest of his comrades at Queen's Park are up to today. They are selling off the furniture to pay for the horrendous deficit that the province of Ontario finds itself in because of the ill-conceived policies of Bob Rae and his band of socialists at Queen's Park.

We can understand why the NDP wants to support Bill C-3 and does not want to make too much of a fuss over it. That is because Bill C-3 would give to the federal cabinet the same type of authority that Bob Rae has at Queen's Park to sell off assets or enter into cosy deals with developers or major corporations without any reference or authority from the legislative body, that is the House of Commons.

It seems to me that in the circumstances we ought not delegate or legislate away authority that this House has regarding the disposition of federal assets. The way this

bill is worded would leave complete discretion in the hands of the cabinet. As I indicated, it could be any cabinet, present or future. It is not something that I believe this government ought to do.

I see I have the support of my House leader from Nova Scotia on the point. I am pleased. I understand that he may be speaking to this bill as well concerning how this bill will affect his constituents in Cape Breton. I know that his constituents would be as concerned as my constituents with respect to this legislation.

Let me conclude by saying how concerned I am about this bill, the fact that it has progressed so far. I would hope that the Senate will carefully scrutinize the provisions of this bill to ensure that it is in keeping with the public interest. The public interest, I would submit, would require that this House continue to have authority over the disposition of major real assets that belong to the people of Canada.

We are not talking about and I am not speaking of surplus land that is minor in nature, where you might have a few lots here or a few lots there that some particular ministry of the Crown deems to be surplus. I am talking about major assets such as—

**Mr. Mills:** Downsview air force base.

**Mr. Nunziata:** —the Downsview air force base, the Pickering lands, for example. A number of my colleagues and I were speaking just a few moments ago about the disposition of the Pickering lands. At the present time the powers that be have deemed it unnecessary for a second major airport be built in metropolitan Toronto. Under this bill the cabinet could just sell off that land without any reference or debate in this House. There is no over-all mechanism or central depository that would determine whether down the road that land might be of use to the federal government for some other purpose.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me simply ask that the Senate carefully scrutinize this bill to ensure that the public interest is dealt with in a fair and reasonable fashion.

**Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my colleague from York—South Weston. I note that the minister is here listening to comment and debate on his bill. I want to make a constructive comment here to address what I and