

Government Orders

The important point is that the shareholders do not get to set those salaries. They do not get to approve them. In the end, those salaries come out of the dividends that would be going to those shareholders. It is their money. They are the ones who have taken the risk. They put their money into the corporation and have a right to decide what the salaries of the top dogs in the operation should be.

However, this government has said that it would remain secret. If an institution sets up a branch in the United States and its stock is traded there the information has to be revealed. As a result, we have a situation in which in this country we do not require that information to be available to shareholders but in our major trading partner it is required.

Canadians who want this information have to go down to the United States and seek access to its process to get that information.

It seems to me that this is very important, particularly in the case of financial institutions. It is extremely important in light of what these bills are going to be doing, and I am referring to Bill C-4, Bill C-19, Bill C-28.

We are going to see one of the greatest feeding frenzies ever seen in the next couple of years. It is going to be like dropping a piece of meat into a tank of piranhas. It will be a feeding frenzy where they will eat up each other.

In such a situation it is very important that the shareholders know what kinds of compensation the chief operating officers of that financial institution are getting. It is very important. I do not have to tell you about the situation at Standard Trust, even now. It is something I have to put on the record. I have been after the appropriate committee of this House, the Standing Committee on Finance, to continue the post-mortem on Standard Trust. I have sent letter after letter to the chairman of the committee asking that we continue the examination of Standard Trust.

Nothing has happened. We had one meeting. Michael Mackenzie appeared before the committee and we just

touched the tip of the iceberg to try to determine what happened.

I am not a suspicious person by nature but I wondered: "Why is it that we did not do the post-mortem on Standard Trust?" Why do you think we did not do it?

An hon. member: Why?

Mr. Rodriguez: I will explain why. It is because at the same time that Standard Trust was sinking below the seas we were unlatching the cages of the financial institutions.

Now you start to see a pattern. We might have discovered some things about the way in which our regulatory system for financial institutions works that might call into question what we are doing in these bills.

Then the public may have twigged to that and said: "If you could not control a small little trust company like Standard Trust, how are you going to control a Hulk Hogan? How are you going to do it?"

Now we have the scenario. The Ontario Securities Commission started an investigation into Standard Trust. I want to ask you: "Is it going anywhere?" Oh, no, it is not going anywhere because Mr. Michael Mackenzie says: "I cannot tell you certain things. I cannot produce certain documents. My lips are sealed. My hands are tied". What is happening? The OSC is going to court to see if it can force the information out of the regulator.

I always thought that the legislators ought to be able to examine these things when they fail. We ought to be able to examine and sift the bones and entrails to see if we can build a better beast.

That seems logical, but we cannot do that. However some things have leaked out that have direct connection to the revelation of these salaries and emoluments for directors and head honchos.

For example, we found out that these Standard Trust bigwigs were paying themselves \$1 million in pension payments. Who paid for that? Not the shareholders but the taxpayers through the CDIC. When it went down the tubes \$250 million came right out of the pockets of every person watching now to pay the depositors.