

is the needy within our society, and he will make public his decisions during his budget speech.

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● (1125)

[English]

### ELDORADO NUCLEAR

#### CONSTRUCTION OF REFINERY IN BLIND RIVER—FINANCING THEREOF

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister announced last month his decision to force Eldorado Nuclear to build a refinery in Blind River. This decision was made without prior consultation with the board of directors of Eldorado, against the recommendations of the management and the directors of the company, and reversed the decision of the previous government.

Given the fact that the cost to the company of the minister's decision will be in the vicinity of \$60 million, given the fact that the company is 100 per cent government owned, and that the company has been forced to borrow money on private markets to cover its capital costs, would the minister—at least in the interest of honesty—effect the transfer of moneys involved from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to Eldorado in order that the accounts of the government would reflect the true costs of this blatant Liberal patronage?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I regret to inform the hon. member that he is misinformed as usual. First, I did consult the board of directors before announcing the decision.

**An hon. Member:** We know what your definition is.

**An hon. Member:** Consult?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Yes, I did consult them.

**An hon. Member:** You told them.

**Mr. Lalonde:** I met with them, but the decision was a government decision. I indicated that the government made that decision on the basis of fairness and on the basis of helping a region that needed help.

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

**Mr. Andre:** Then let the blue book reflect that.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Second, as far as additional cost is concerned, the hon. member may speculate on increases, but I have indicated that the cost would increase by moving the refinery in northern Ontario. This was made as a definite government policy decision to the effect that we should be ready to incur additional costs and, as I said, to bring jobs to areas where in good part the raw material is found.

### Oral Questions

As far as the request for additional financing by Eldorado is concerned, that request and plan was made and was in the works before the decision to move the refinery to Port Hope was taken. It was a decision independent of the decision to open a new refinery in Blind River rather than in Port Hope. It is a totally different situation. In any event, Eldorado needed additional financing for its capital expansion. The company proposed to take that decision, and I am very glad that they have been successful in arranging the financing.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Madam Speaker, the mere fact that Eldorado is now scurrying around trying to rationalize the unfortunate decision imposed upon them by the minister in setting up a sort of Mickey Mouse operation in Blind River, and reversing, in effect, the decision of the minister is an indication of whether or not there was adequate consultation or any consultation at all.

The minister's parliamentary secretary indicated last week that it was not the policy of this government to interfere with the affairs of Crown corporations and that they would act independently. Would the minister now stand in his place to either repudiate his parliamentary secretary and indicate that he was wrong in that assessment, or will he tell us whether or not he will allow Eldorado to make decisions in their best interests under their mandate, and not continue to interfere? Also, will he indicate that the policy is not to get involved in the management of Crown corporations under his jurisdiction?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, I am afraid, again, that the Mickey Mouse is not in Blind River but comes from Saskatoon West.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** Watch out, Pinocchio.

**Mr. Lalonde:** As far as the question of the hon. member is concerned, I want to assure him—I have stated it quite clearly in this House—that the job of the minister is not to second-guess management decisions, but there are government responsibilities that have to be fulfilled.

**Mr. Andre:** At least blush when you say that.

**Mr. Lalonde:** When the government decides, for policy reasons, to vary a decision by any corporation, the government makes it publicly and takes responsibility for it. This is what we have done in the case of the refinery that is being opened in Blind River. We are very proud of that decision. We think it is the right one. I am very happy, also, to endorse the plans of the corporation to expand and modify its operations in Port Hope, which will ensure that Port Hope will have a very active operation in the next few years.

● (1130)

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my final supplementary to the Minister of Employment and Immi-