

must, would be the strict adherence to the historic and traditional necessity of accountability.

This Government is not spending its own money and it is not borrowing money in its own name. It is spending the money of the Canadian taxpayer and it is borrowing money which will be paid back by the Canadian taxpayer. Surely the Canadian taxpayer has the right to demand accountability from those who take these actions on their behalf.

Accountability means responsibility. We hear so much of human rights, but how many times do we hear about human responsibility and the responsibility to the Canadian people of that Cabinet across the way? When you use something that belongs to someone else, you are responsible for how it is used. When you do something in someone else's name, you have the responsibility to do it right. If you fail on one or both counts you must consider yourself responsible. You must consider yourself accountable. It is very simple, it is traditional, it is honourable and it is a concept that should be followed in this House, but which heretofore has not been. It is a concept of which the Government is either unaware or absolutely dismisses. This lack of accountability on the part of Government takes many forms. We have Ministers avoiding responsibility for their own actions and those of their Departments—such as the unresigned, the unrepentent leaker across the way. We have Ministers who avoid the responsibility of Parliament by announcing Government policy in public forums, such as the letter of the Prime Minister in the press today and his three stilted television appearances. We have Ministers who either participate in or condone the questionable dealings of former colleagues vis-à-vis Gillespie. We have a Government which avoids its responsibility to Parliament and to Canadians by an abusive use of Orders in Council to create everything from Crown corporations to positions of patronage, to odious and objectionable legislation, and even to internment camps. This deliberate avoidance of accountability is costly to Canadian taxpayers as well as being an affront to Parliament, to ourselves who represent the people and to the people themselves.

• (1630)

Many strong and reasoned objections have been raised regarding the Government's seemingly endless creation of Crown corporations. In his recent Report the Auditor General raised the alarm regarding the dangers inherent and evident in the existence of these agencies of Government. He said—and rightly so—that Crown corporations are “sub-Government” and that they should and must be accountable to Parliament and to the shareholders, which of course is the Canadian public.

It is common knowledge that the nation's actual deficit is far higher than the figures I have just stated. The debts being incurred by Crown corporations are not included in the Government total and they are not audited. In many instances tax dollars are being poured into these corporations with scant regard for the manner in which the funds are being spent. The actions of management are not subject to public or parliamentary scrutiny, and only inadvertently do we learn of the magnitude of the waste involved or of the gross ineptness of operations. I refer, for example, to CIDA and its top-heavy

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management, the debt load of Haiti of \$22 million of taxpayers' money and the project being scrapped. There is no accountability and there have been fraudulent payments specifically pinpointed as being fraudulent, such as one for over \$100,000. No one is accountable, and there have been no firings.

The Government's handling of the Crown-owned aircraft company, Canadair, is the most recent example of the inefficiency and waste of Government intervention and why it needs to borrow more money. The Government, without consulting Parliament, has given the company more than \$1.5 billion, and the Prime Minister has said that Canadair will likely be asking for more money later this year. The final bill to the taxpayer for the development of the Challenger executive jet may reach the staggering sum of \$2.3 billion, for an aircraft fitted with Lycoming helicopter engines.

Adding to the problem, the Government recently put Canadair under the management and control of yet another Crown corporation—the Canada Development Investment Corporation. It sounds wonderful! CDIC is not accountable to Parliament, so there can be little public confidence in entrusting this Corporation to handle the problems of another. The very creation of CDIC and the manner in which it is being run gives clear indication to any Canadian willing to think about it of the fundamental and costly error Government makes when it enters the private marketplace. Formed initially to get the Government out of the Canada Development Corporation, over which it tried to but could not gain control, CDIC was handed responsibility for Ottawa's interest in half a dozen firms. Naturally the corporation exists by virtue of 17 Orders in Council, not by the authority of Parliament. Sell it and reduce the deficit; that is what really counts, not borrowing money.

There has been debate over whether the Corporation was created to permit Government to gain control and power over the private sector or to provide more positions of patronage. It is my feeling that both motives apply. The chairman of CDIC is none other than Maurice Strong, a long-time Liberal and friend of the Prime Minister. The company president is Joel Bell, the architect of the Government's short-lived competitions policy, of the Foreign Investment Review Agency, that millstone around our necks, and the national energy policy. Lots of luck at the gas pumps! Joel Bell was also the man who devised the formula for a tax on consumers to pay for Petro-Canada's purchase of Petrofina. That tax is continuing even though it has been paid. This year Canadians will probably pay \$800 million at the pumps, which they should not be paying, to bail out Dome Petroleum. The two men running the Corporation report to Senator Jacob Austin, formally the Prime Minister's principal secretary and directly connected with Canada's involvement in the uranium cartel—another sweetheart! All three of them are dedicated interventionists. Given what we have seen from their past accomplishments, we can be sure their attitudes have not changed.