

Petro-Canada and did so. We believe it was beneficial to Canadians at large and it certainly carries broad support throughout the country.

However, I notice that most Hon. Members on the other side are not opposed to provincial Crown corporations, such as the Alberta Energy Corporation or Ontario Hydro, which certainly is much larger than any federal Crown corporation. It is a way for a government to provide services.

This Bill sets out a regime for dividing these Crown corporations into those which receive appropriations from Parliament and those which are competitive and capable of operating without parliamentary appropriations. They are organized on a reasonably rational basis.

The Member suggested that there is really no political will to put this Bill through Parliament. I suggest that the fact it was introduced exactly a week ago yesterday and is before the House today certainly indicates that we want to proceed with this Bill. I believe he made an excellent suggestion to have this Bill go to committee for a vigorous discussion, as usually takes place in committee.

It has also been suggested that this regime does not make anyone responsible for particular Crown corporations. However, I think the legislation follows the recommendation of the Auditor General that the responsibility for these corporations should go back to the Government and the responsible Minister. The appropriate Minister will make recommendations to the Governor in Council with regard to directives, the operating budget and the corporate plan which will be tabled in Parliament. Obviously, the appropriate Minister for each Crown corporation will not only be legally responsible but politically responsible during Question Period every day in the House of Commons. There cannot be much more responsibility to Parliament than having to answer questions daily during Question Period or defending the directives, corporate plans and operating budgets before the appropriate parliamentary committee. I cannot imagine any more direct way of putting responsibility on the individual Minister.

The Hon. Member suggested at the beginning of his remarks that the Government had produced no regulations. This is not surprising since regulations often are not tabled at the time of second reading because we are dealing with the purpose of the Bill. Clearly, the Minister, acting on behalf of the President of the Treasury Board, has indicated that those regulations will be made available at the committee stage. While this is not done very often, the Minister has given the commitment in this case that the regulations will be put before the committee dealing with this Bill.

The Member also suggested that the regulations give too much power to the Government. Obviously, regulations can be enforced only to the extent provided for in the Act. It is important to note that the regulations as passed by the Government must be contained in *The Canada Gazette* and are subject to review by the Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments.

He suggested that Section 135(1) gives power to the Minister of Finance for the financial control of Crown corporations but there is an exemption in subsection (4). The reasoning

### *Financial Administration Act*

behind that is that the over-all financial budget of a corporation, such as the Export Development Corporation, is approved but when such a corporation must go to the market for a particular borrowing a regulation could be applied for it to be exempt from that individual need for financial resources. Of course, all regulations are published in *The Canada Gazette* and are subject to scrutiny by Members of Parliament through questions in the House and in the Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments. It has also been suggested that regulations can be changed. Sure, any regulation can be changed, but the Government has to be able to defend the change when it is published in *The Canada Gazette* either here in the Chamber or in the appropriate committee.

• (1500)

The Hon. Member talked about the regulations relating to the moving of a Crown corporation from Schedule C Part I to Schedule C Part II, and said that this can be done without any constraint. If this is done by the Government, it has to be reported in the House of Commons and the move becomes effective 31 days after tabling in the House. I think the idea was that we are trying to provide some flexibility in this legislation. I think there is a provision now that Crown corporations can be put on existing schedules by an Order in Council, but they can only be removed by an Act of Parliament. There are some Crown corporations on the list which the Government no longer has. The flexibility provided in this provision would be beneficial in that regard.

The Hon. Member also talked about Clause 130 which covers corporate plans and budgets. He mentioned that there might be a one line plan. If we look at Clause 130 in the Bill, we see the heading "Corporate Plans and Budgets". These items must not only be recommended by the responsible Minister but must be approved by Cabinet and placed before Parliament. The corporate plan must cover all the activities of the corporation and its subsidiaries. The corporation must under its mandate state its objectives over the plan period as well as its expected performance for the current year relative to the previous stated objectives. The plan must set out information according to the corporation's major lines of business. New corporations would have to outline what their objectives and main lines of business or plans would be. As a result, much more detailed information will be made available to Parliament. The idea is to improve management control and to have a constant flow of information to Parliament from the Crown corporations so that Parliament may be able to maintain its control over Crown corporations.

It is suggested that Parliament is really losing its power to control Crown corporations. I would argue the other way, that Crown corporations can only be set up now under the Canada Business Corporations Act without regard to Parliament. When this Bill is passed it will be paramount over every other Crown corporation with the exception I believe, of the Bank of Canada, the International Research Institute and the Wheat Board.