

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, the reasons the Hon. Member is attributing to the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, acting on behalf of the Canada Development Investment Corporation, for receiving revenue are not the right ones at all. First of all, as far as the legislation is concerned, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that we shall be tabling the Bill later today, and we hope to have an opportunity to consider this legislation in Parliament as quickly as possible.

As far as the sums of money charged by the Corporation as management fees are concerned, I think it is common business practice and entirely appropriate in this case. As for the amounts paid by Eldorado Nuclear Limited to the Corporation it was not because of any desperate need of money on the part of the Corporation but because by the middle of this decade, Eldorado Nuclear Limited would have to pay very substantial dividends to the Canada Development Investment Corporation, and to prevent any undue financial burden on Eldorado, the Corporation agreed to a financial arrangement under which certain shares held by the Canada Development Investment Corporation in Eldorado Nuclear would be bought back.

[English]

Mr. Beatty: It must be new math, Madam Speaker? I have sure lost him.

APPLICATION OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Can the Minister confirm that in fact Eldorado paid that money directly to CIDC and CIDC intends to hang on to that money as opposed to giving it to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, where it should go? Will the Minister tell the House whether, before this was done, he or any other official asked for an opinion from the Department of Justice with regard to Section 11(1) of the Financial Administration Act, which would direct that that money not go the CIDC but directly to the Receiver General of Canada and into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I wish to confirm that the amount paid by Eldorado Nuclear Limited to the Canada Development Investment Corporation was for investment development. I have already indicated why payment took place, namely, to prevent any undue financial burden on Eldorado a few years from now, as a result of its commitments to the CDIC.

I also wish to remind the Hon. Member that this afternoon, he will realize when the Bill is read, that it contains provisions that Parliament will be asked to approve regarding the use of

funds received by the Canada Development Investment Corporation from its affiliated corporations.

[English]

APPROPRIATIONS FOR CANADAIR AND DE HAVILLAND CORPORATIONS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, I had intended to direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. In his absence I will direct it to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday, when tabling the estimates, the President of the Treasury Board filed appropriations for Canadair for \$240 million and \$60 million for de Havilland Aircraft Corporation. Did the President of the Treasury Board or the Prime Minister have in his possession financial statements of these corporations indicating that the appropriation of \$240 million in one case and \$60 million in the other was sufficient to put these corporations back on an even keel, or is this just another infusion of cash for these corporations, like the cash infusion we gave these corporations last November, to keep them alive for another six months?

● (1420)

Mr. Peter Lang (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I will investigate whether the financial statements were available to the President of the Treasury Board, and report back to the Hon. Member. The funds that were designated for Canadair and de Havilland were to strengthen their equity bases.

Mr. Blenkarn: Madam Speaker, I hope that the Parliamentary Secretary has had an opportunity to look at these figures; otherwise I see no reason why he should be answering questions.

CORPORATIONS' FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, I again direct my question to the Prime Minister as he should be on top of these things. I would ask the Prime Minister if there are financial statements available for these corporations and, if not, how does the Government propose to ask Parliament to approve a total of \$300 million without any real indication of where we are going with respect to these losers and how much more money we will have to pour into them? Where are we going?

Mr. Peter Lang (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, quite clearly the Government had the financial information that was necessary to make the decision to strengthen the equity base of Canadair and of de Havilland. It is important to recognize that this is an industry that Canada wants to keep, and an industry which has a high technology base.