

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## CROWN CORPORATIONS

## CANADA LANDS (MIRABEL) LTD.—SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. It follows on a question by the Hon. Member for Joliette on April 26 when he asked the Minister to explain why there was an exemption from the six and five program to selected employees of Canada Lands (Mirabel) Ltd. As reported at page 24864 of *Hansard*, the Minister responded that he would check, "but I would be very surprised if that were true". Two days later, on April 28, Order in Council No. 1983-1013 was cancelled and was replaced by No. 1983-1247. The second Order in Council retained exactly what the first one had in place.

Apart from dealing with the reasoning behind the exemption, will the Minister also explain what is behind all this mysterious activity? Why was he not aware of the original Order in Council regarding the employees of Canada Lands Mirabel Ltd. and the six and five program? Why was the original Order revoked just two days after we asked about it and replaced with one with the same result?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, when the Hon. Member asked me the question, I said that I would check into the facts because I did not remember whether this item had come before me. In fact, when I checked, it had never been submitted to me. This was a reorganization of the personnel of La Société immobilière du Canada (Mirabel) Ltée which took place many months ago. Outside experts were called in, with the permission of Treasury Board, to review classifications of that personnel equivalent to the classification levels in the rest of the Public Service. The report was given to la Société which submitted it to Treasury Board. Treasury Board examined the issue and my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, is in a position to answer.

My understanding is that the issue of classification and the issue of six and five are completely separate. It was felt that people who had positions similar to those in the Public Service should be given the normal salaries to which they were entitled.

**Mr. Fennell:** That is ridiculous. There are two sets of rules—one for public servants, and one for employees of Crown corporations and employees of private corporations like Maislin.

## ROLE OF CHAIRMAN IN NEGOTIATING SALARIES

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Madam Speaker, obviously Mr. Goyer, the chairman of Canada Lands (Mirabel) Ltd., negotiated this Order in Council directly with Treasury Board. Would the Minister answer yes or no?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I have no knowledge of who approached Treasury

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Board. There is a normal procedure for Crown corporations when they deal with Treasury Board.

## APPLICATION OF RESTRAINT PROGRAM

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Obviously he knows about this Order in Council and the Minister of Public Works should have known about it. Could he enlighten the House why the employees of Canada Lands (Mirabel) Ltd. were exempted from the six and five program when all other public servants at Mirabel were left in the program?

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, Section 16 of the Public Service Compensation Restraint Act indicates that the Governor in Council can exempt from coverage of the Act employees who enter into an agreement or who are covered by a compensation plan which is consistent with the six and five program. As the Minister of Public Works said, a compensation plan was put into effect which strictly followed the six and five program and, as a result, pursuant to a decision of Parliament, the Governor in Council applied Section 16.

My hon. friend is completely wrong when he says that the six and five program does not apply to the employees. The Act applies to them pursuant to Section 16. Their compensation plan is strictly within the six and five limits.

• (1420)

## EXEMPTIONS UNDER STATUTE

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the President of the Treasury Board. He just told us that because this Crown corporation, headed by Jean-Pierre Goyer, has negotiated an agreement with its employees which is in six and five, therefore the Public Service Restraint Act, in other words, the six and five program, would not apply to those Crown corporation employees. That is an absurdity on the surface of it. Will he tell this House how it is that this kind of exemption can be made from the fundamental promise by the Liberal Government that six and five applies to everyone in Government?

How is a Crown corporation allowed to be exempted without the Minister who is supposed to be responsible to this House knowing that? Can he also tell us how many other Crown corporations and how many other ways he has found to exempt these friends of the Government from the application of this law which the Government said was so fundamental and would be universally applied?

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, if my hon. friend would engage his ear before engaging his mouth, he would have heard me say that the employees of this company are not exempted from the six and five program. The compensation plan applying to them is