

*Dissolution of 1967 Expo Corporation*

I say that we need greater efficiency in government management. These are not my views alone; these views were well expressed in the Sixth Annual Review of the Economic Council of Canada, where at page 157 the Council states:

The government sector has now become so large, and its revenues and expenditures affect directly or indirectly so many aspects of our economic and social goals, that it has become urgent to develop more effective mechanisms for managing our affairs in this critically important area of our national life. Governments today are facing critical problems of choice among many competing demands. Moreover, there is no profit calculus in the government sector to set standards of efficiency and performance.

We have had a classic example of that. All one has to do is to look at the criticism in the Auditor General's report with regard to the mismanagement of Expo's affairs. The council continues with this statement:

Yet greater efficiency in the delivery of public goods and services, such as health care and education, could conceivably result in very large savings in resources which could then be diverted to other pressing needs.

• (5:50 p.m.)

Canadians want to know what are the assets of Expo '67. They want to know where they are and what they are worth. Why is there all this secrecy about this particular disposal? What is the government hiding? We are being asked by the minister to give him a blank cheque covering the disposal of these assets which have been paid for by all Canadians. This literally denies all Canadians an opportunity to tender in respect of these assets. We are also being asked to pay off an amount of \$125 million towards accounts receivable under Expo guarantees.

This type of procedure outlined in this bill only serves to destroy the confidence of Canadians in our democratic process. Certainly, it destroys the confidence of Canadians in this government and makes a farce, if I may say so, of the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) slogan "The Just Society". At this stage, we cannot call this government just or fair.

I hope the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) will give us some indication at an early date of the manner in which he plans to wield this almost totalitarian power placed in his hands by this bill. Many communities across Canada made an effort to celebrate our Centennial year. Many of these projects have not been paid for. In my constituency we had a number of Centennial projects. In my own home town of Lunenburg we have the only floating museum

[Mr. Crouse.]

in Canada. This was established as a Centennial project. This is one of the last floating replicas of the old sailing schooner, similar to the Bluenose. The Centennial Committee is requesting the people of this town, populated by a little more than 3,000 people, to contribute \$60,000 to create a permanent display berth for this ship. Surely, the minister can realize the strain that this will place on these people.

Surely, if we are prepared to give money to Expo we should be prepared to pay some of the other deficits. I should like to hear from the minister on this matter of such vital importance to the people throughout this country. The truth is that this government does not run a tight ship in respect of financial matters. It has no real objective and no real course. As a result, it is sailing around in circles while the economy flounders in a whirlpool of inflation. It has no objectives and no priorities. The government has no vision, but I know the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will welcome the opportunity of examining the wasteful and extravagant policies of his government when this measure comes before the committee. I hope the committee's recommendations will include measures to control the disposal of the assets of Expo. I hope that these recommendations will not be discarded by the minister and that he will give them careful thought and full consideration.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the wish of the House that the Chair call it six o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Aiken:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might ask the house leader to indicate the business for tomorrow and Friday?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, we will continue with the item now before the House as the first item of business for tomorrow, that is item No. 8 on today's order paper. The next item of business will be item No. 11, the bill in respect of Children of War Dead, in the name of the Minister of Veterans' Affairs (Mr. Dubé). This will be followed by item No. 19, a bill to amend the Canada Student Loans Act. We will then take up item No. 4, a bill to amend the Judges' Act, to be followed by item No. 23, a bill respecting the