

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, this question has been answered time and time again. In the spring we moved as rapidly as possible to try to find new directors for the Canadian Commercial Bank. I have no power to change the management of any banking institutions. I would also like to point out that the problems of this Bank began for two reasons, two reasons, Mr. Speaker. They began because of the National Energy Policy that destroyed the western economy—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. McDougall: —and they continued because that Government never did anything about increasing the supervisory capability of our regulators to look after our depositors.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Garneau: Mr. Speaker, I have heard similar nonsense from the Minister and the Prime Minister two or three times before.

Mr. Speaker, I am referring to *Hansard* of March 25, in which the Minister herself stated the causes of the Bank's bankruptcy and referred to the situation in the United States. Never, in the initial paragraphs of her statement, did she mention—

Mr. Speaker: The question, please!

Mr. Garneau: I wish to put a question to the Minister. Why did she not appoint anyone when the bankers gave a list of former senior officials of their institutions who were retired and who were willing to come back and go to work to protect Canadian taxpayers?

[English]

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, the Inspector General proceeded to do his job by sending in inspectors following the rescue package for the Canadian Commercial Bank. At a later time, people were sent in from the private banking sector. I want to remind the Hon. Member that—

[Translation]

—during the years when the Liberal Government was in power, your Government never did a single thing. Never!

[English]

REQUEST FOR LIST OF UNINSURED DEPOSITORS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is in response to the Minister's decision to keep secret the list of depositors with over \$60,000 who are receiving their pay-out from the taxpayers.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee has now come forward saying that a list of the uninsured depositors should be made public. That position is also supported by the President

of the Toronto Dominion Bank, and other bank chairmen have indicated that the decision is really a government decision. Would the Minister now stop stonewalling, or covering up, and make this list public?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated that I will provide a categorical breakdown of the finest possible degree to satisfy the kind of information that is required by the committee. I would also point out that other bank chairmen and other members of the public, other lawyers and many people agree with my decision not to release these names at this time.

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In recent days it has become perfectly clear that the Government is not prepared to give the Finance Committee the necessary powers or information to conduct a thorough investigation into the fall of the Canadian Commercial Bank and Northland.

Rather than continue this charade, will the Prime Minister get to the bottom of the CCB mess and ask that a judicial inquiry take place into the demise of these two banks?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Let me first say, Mr. Speaker, that I have had the opportunity of discussing these matters with the Hon. Member's House Leader. We have a firm rule that we will not have our Members make false statements in this House respecting negotiations. The Hon. Member ought to learn that right away because what he is saying is without foundation. We have been as open as possible with respect to every facet of the request being made. We are interested in getting to the bottom of this thing, even more so than the members of his Party, and we have taken steps to ensure that the full truth comes out. I would ask the Hon. Member's House Leader not to go about discussing what goes on in negotiations in public again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: Sensitive. He didn't ask about the negotiations.

Mr. Broadbent: Did you hear the question?

* * *

TRADE

ENTRY OF CANADIAN TECHNICIANS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of International Trade. I am sure the Minister is aware that as a result of a court action in California by the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen that Canadian tradesmen and technicians are being denied access to the United States to install and service Canadian commercial and industrial equipment. Could the