

able to Parliament and to the citizens of this country, legislation created as the need arises and developed accordingly.

I have just seen a fine performance, play acting worthy of his leader, the revered golden calf as he called it himself during the Progressive Conservative Party leadership campaign, in an attempt to make us believe that the Government wants to gag the Opposition. On the contrary, Members opposite are filibustering to gag Members who have something to say on this Bill and intended to move amendments. That is exactly what is happening.

Earlier someone tried to argue that Crown corporations are not responsible to anybody, which is not true, Mr. Speaker. Crown corporations are now answerable to Cabinet Ministers who, in turn, must account for those Crown corporations to their Cabinet colleagues and answer questions raised about Crown corporations in the House. In addition, they have to appear before the committees of the House when they are asked to attend. The drawback right now is that a Crown corporation is responsible to the committee which happens to be dealing with its field of activity. For instance, the CBC is responsible to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture. But with this new Bill, there would be some kind of direct control by parliamentarians and the Canadian Parliament. We would systematically ask the corporations to appear before the committees and answer to parliamentarians, although they would still come under the jurisdiction of a Minister. And besides they would be operating within a structure which is more in keeping with the responsibilities which Canadian parliamentarians have set for the Canadian Government so as to hear what Canadians have to say and what they expect.

I must point out that this Bill is not before the House simply because the Government happens to like it that way. It is a fact that in recent years the Canadian Government has had to get directly involved in a good many cases concerning certain Crown corporations. Our country has been the scene of basic economic changes which forced the Government to step in in areas where it had never expected to intervene. The best example is Canadian Government support for the aeronautical industry. It is obvious that our aeronautical industry would never have left the ground and would not now have 7,000 or 8,000 jobs at de Havilland and Canadair if the Canadian Government had not become directly involved. To do so, the Canadian Government had to proceed through a Crown corporation which, in turn, took over these corporations by purchasing shares. Obviously, this requires special controlling organizations, such as the CDIC, which is funded by both private and public moneys and has the mandate to manage these corporations. This is a new process which has just recently been put into place and which has developed in the course of the last few years, stemming from the CDIC. And it is precisely to meet these new needs that the Government must come up with a bill such as this. Is it fundamentally bad for

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Canada and for Canadians that we should develop a truly Canadian aeronautics industry?

We in the Liberal Party believe it is not. We believe it is good for Canada, for the future of our country, to have a strong technology in this field. As for the Progressive Conservatives, they have demonstrated in the early sixties that they did not believe in the future of this industry when they simply destroyed the work that was being done in this area. They eliminated AVRO and some other aeronautics concerns which existed in this country at that time. Admittedly, this is expensive, but every nation in the world is doing it, most often under the disguise of military expenditures. We in this country are doing the same through public service, through corporations which are involved in the field of civil aircraft production, which is far better than the military cover. Moreover, there are now a lot of Crown corporations by the way with fairly large budgets. There is CBC for instance as well as Air Canada, a Crown corporation which is doing fine and which, without making enormous profits on the back of the Canadian people, has provided this country with quite an interesting air transport system which through its management is directly linked to the government I feel, therefore, that the government should introduce a new legislation thereby allowing Hon. Members to become more involved in the management of Crown corporations, for they are reaching each and every house of this country, whether through its television or radio stations, as in the case of CBC, or through various means of transportation, as in the case of the CN. Crown corporations provide facilities . . . Canada Post, which used to be a government department, was made into a Crown corporation a few years ago. All these corporations are increasingly assuming a greater presence in the everyday lives of the Canadian people. I feel it is good that these corporations should strive to meet the needs which Canadians are expressing and that they should do so following the financial and administrative guidelines defined by duly elected representatives of the Canadian people. I repeat what I said a while ago: I cannot understand the illogical response of the Hon. Member for Joliette who blamed the government for wanting to refer this bill without delay to the proper committee, so that Hon. Members may scrutinize it as soon as possible . . . Not only for each to deal with it in the House for ten minutes or so, but to examine in depth all its sections one after the other, with the power to amend it to meet the wishes and the will of the Canadian people to make it into something acceptable which will work for many years to come and which will meet the needs of our country. In addition, the sooner it is sent to committee, the sooner the committee will undertake a thorough consideration of the bill and amend it the way Canadians want it done, and the sooner it will be brought back for discussion and for a vote in the House. The government and Parliament will thus be able to provide the tool which the members opposite have been demanding for a long time and those corporations will be made