

Oral Questions

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is too bad that the Hon. Member does not stick around his riding once in a while, or at least in his own province. He would find out that there have been discussions, ongoing discussions, with the unions. I know that he would like to see the Newfoundland Railway scrapped so he could have a political issue. We are not going to fall for that trap, I can assure him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CROWN CORPORATIONS**CANADAIR—REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY EXAMINATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE SALE**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Given the obvious desire of the Government to sell off Crown corporations at no matter what price, and given the recent unfortunate, to put it euphemistically, experience we have had in the case of the de Havilland sale, will the Minister now give the House his unequivocal assurance before any decision is reached in the selling of Canadair that all the details of such a decision will be brought before Parliament before it is finalized?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: What is unfortunate is your conduct.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member for Oshawa who has repeated once again a question that has been raised several times in this House—

Mr. Broadbent: And not answered.

Mr. Stevens: —I have indicated what we must first obtain in relation to Canadair is a willing buyer. To date we do not have a willing buyer for Canadair. How can I answer such a hypothetical question?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT WILL PRESENT ALL DETAILS CONCERNING POSSIBLE SALE OF CANADAIR

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, it is not hypothetical in the least. On December 10, the Government said in the House that it intended to sell Canadair. That is a decision. My question concerns the procedure. Can the Minister give the House the assurance that the Government will submit all details regarding the sale of Canadair prior to this report?

[*English*]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Again, if I may reply to the Hon. Member, Mr. Speaker, he must know that in the case of de Havilland we solicited interest in the sense of would-be buyers from 135 different individuals or corporations, both within Canada and without. That is the process we are going through in relation to Canadair. We are attempting to identify who might be interested in making an offer to purchase Canadair. To date we do not have such a buyer who has indicated that he would come with a proposal cash in hand.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I will try again. The Minister has said it is not a hypothesis but a reality that the Government will sell Canadair. He said that on December 10. Given the fact that the President of Canadair said publicly it will be sold—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Broadbent: —will the Minister commit himself now, in terms of the process of selling off the Crown corporation, that details will be presented to Parliament so Canadians can make a judgment before the decision is reached?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You have tried three questions. That has been answered.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, how many times do I have to answer the same question?

● (1425)

Mr. Broadbent: You have not answered it once.

Some Hon. Members: Just answer it once.

Mr. Stevens: We do not have the makings of a deal with respect to Canadair at the present time. How can I answer in hypothetical terms?

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DISARMAMENT**SOVIET UNION'S PROPOSAL TO END NUCLEAR ARMS RACE**

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last week the Soviet Union made what is potentially the most significant proposal since the beginning of the Cold War to end the disastrous nuclear arms race. This proposal deserves the most comprehensive and detailed review, not only by the U.S. but also by all members of the Western Alliance. Will the Minister request an urgent and special meeting of all NATO Foreign Ministers to review the new Soviet peace proposal, which is very vital not only to the United States but to the western world and to the world in general? Will the