

Canada to local governments, whether they be provincial or municipal?

My interpretation of the bill is that there is a book value at this moment in time in a depressed economy of approximately \$31 million on Harbourfront, and it is basically up for sale to whoever will come along and buy it, whether it is a developer or whoever.

I would feel more comfortable if he were suggesting that we can only move it into a different form of public ownership where the object then in terms of service is totally different than a property that is in the private sector.

Could the hon. member please clarify for me, because I have the impression that he was saying that this is not going to go into private ownership. It is going to go into just another form of public ownership.

Mr. Bosley: Madam Speaker, I may take the member back to the beginning. It is wonderful now to hear Liberals talk about how Harbourfront ought to stay in public ownership and use since it was Liberals who required that the property be developed by the private sector for private purposes.

Mr. Mills: Jointly.

Mr. Bosley: That was the only way in which the public was to be allowed access to any part of it. That was not the position—

Mr. Mills: Jointly. What's the reality?

Mr. Bosley: That was not the position that was taken by the local councils of the—

Mr. Nunziata: Make it specific.

Mr. Bosley: It is absolutely typical, Madam Speaker. It is impossible anymore to get a rat-packer to listen.

This bill proposes that the minister be allowed the legislative authority necessary to dissolve Harbourfront Corporation. It says nothing about who will get the property, who will get management and control of the assets. What it does say is that the minister will have the legislative authority in order to take the steps that become necessary when the minister has concluded his negotiations that the hon. member knows are under way now with the province of Ontario and the municipalities to attempt to resolve the impasse that currently confronts the Harbourfront Corporation in its management of its affairs.

Government Orders

Whatever that negotiation produces, and one hopes in fact that the province of Ontario and the city will be able to get more public property than even the parklands that were originally promised, that little bit of public access parkland that was promised in the Harbourfront Corporation plan, that that negotiation will produce even more public access to the site.

The change that will be needed in law to allow the entity that Mr. Crombie recommends to manage that property is that the Harbourfront Corporation has to be legally dissolved in order to make the transfer to the new management body. I do not know, nor does the member know, what those negotiations will produce as the recommended solution. The member does know, however—

Mr. Mills: It will go to private development.

Mr. Bosley: No, the member makes an assumption that the lands get transferred to the private—

Mr. Mills: You assume otherwise.

Mr. Bosley: I make no such assumption. I make an assumption that there is a negotiation that has to go on and I am well aware, as the member is, that in order for the minister to implement the federal part of whatever that negotiation produces, this is the beginning of the legislative changes that are needed to do that, the end product of which must be greater control, locally. That is the ultimate objective that some of us have been fighting for 15 years to get.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Madam Speaker, we understand the bias of the particular member. His family is in the real estate business. I am not suggesting his family would benefit in any way from the sale of the assets of Harbourfront. It reflects a particular point of view or a particular disposition in terms of the private sector being able to do certain things and to earn a lot of money as a result of the sale and disposition of assets that belong to the people of Canada.

If the hon. member has read the bill, he will know what is contained under section 40, subsection (2). In case he has not read it, I will read it for the public record:

The Minister of Public Works may do all things and perform all acts necessary for or incidental to closing out the affairs of Harbourfront Corporation.

In other words, if this bill passes, the Minister of Public Works, without having to come back to Parliament, without having to receive the endorsement of this