

Oral Questions

power games, and to leave undefined what the Government wants to do?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, first, I should like to remind the Hon. Member of the four major objectives of the Corporation. He must know that the Government and the taxpayers are concerned about the way some corporations operate. There is no need for me to mention specific cases. I am certain that all Hon. Members already have some in mind. It was therefore necessary to take drastic action to ensure a closer control over these corporations and provide a businesslike solution to the business problems they were facing. The first objective of the new Corporation is therefore to oversee these corporations more closely.

The second objective is as follows. We all know that the Government has holdings in several corporations which could easily be privatized when market conditions make it possible to get a good return on the sale of these holdings for Canadian taxpayers. That is the second objective to be met by the Corporation.

The third objective—

Madam Speaker: Order, please! The answer of the Hon. Minister is a bit long.

[English]

CORPORATION'S OBJECTIVES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Madam Speaker, my final supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister assure the House that the new umbrella corporation will be more than just the latest evolution of the bureaucratic state capitalism that we have received from the Liberals over the years?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: You've got to be joking.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Author?

Mr. Blaikie: Does the Prime Minister intend to ensure that, in the future, Crown corporations will become an instrument for the pursuit of genuine alternative economic development, that is, accountable to social and environmental indicators of productivity as well as traditional profit criteria—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blaikie: —and that it is a kind of economic planning—

Some Hon. Members: Louder!

Mr. Blaikie: Does he intend to insure that it is a kind of economic planning over which Canadians have authentic control?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blaikie: Or are—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. That enumeration and that long preamble are just a bit too much on a third question on the same subject. I would ask the Hon. Member to proceed immediately to ask his question.

• (1430)

Mr. Blaikie: Are we to see the continuation of Crown corporations merely being mirror images of their counterparts in the private sector?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I can only advise the Hon. Member to read carefully what the Minister responsible said in the important statement he made yesterday, when he indicated the main objectives of the Corporation and how this new instrument the Government had created would be used to resolve a number of existing problems and also other problems that might arise in the future.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
FROM MEXICO

Madam Speaker: I have the honour of drawing the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of a parliamentary delegation from Mexico, which is headed by Senator Celso Humberto Delgado Ramirez.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN
MALTA

Madam Speaker: I also wish to draw the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of the Leader of the Opposition in Malta, Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FISHERIES

GEORGES BANK BOUNDARY DISPUTE—STATEMENT MADE BY
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. At the present time the U.S.-Canada Georges Bank boundary dispute is before the International court at The Hague. In light of the recent presidential proclamation which says that in case of conflicts the boundary of the exclusive economic zone shall be determined by the United States and other states concerned in