

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not a new rule. The same question put over and over is contrary to our practice. Order, please. The Hon. Member for York Centre.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

SALE OF DE HAVILLAND—HIRING OF BROKERAGE FIRM

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): I note that the President of the Treasury Board is back, Mr. Speaker. I hope he heard the news—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Kaplan:—that there has been a very welcome flip-flop by his Party over the question of giving information on the de Havilland sale.

I note that the brokerage firm of Burns Fry has been used as the agent on four of five of the Government's privatizations. There are other good firms that are capable of doing that work. I understand as well that very large commissions will be paid. Will that aspect of this transaction and all the documents be reviewed by the committee looking into the de Havilland sale?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): I would like to thank my hon. colleague for his words of welcome. I was absent yesterday because I was meeting with the ambassadors from the European Economic Community at the behest of the Prime Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): What is the country going to get?

Mr. de Cotret: On the question of information, Mr. Speaker, I think we have made available on the whole transaction all the information that was potentially available to the Opposition from a commercial point of view.

I further made available this morning an addendum to the memorandum outlining many of the points that were made in this House over the last few weeks just so Members opposite can focus their minds more clearly on the specific details that have obviously been concerning them. We will continue in that same spirit of providing all the details.

We are still committed, I would like to emphasize, to the sale of de Havilland to Boeing. We will throughout this process make available, as I indicated in my covering note this morning, all available information. Please phone or call, and we will give you the information that you request.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

AWARDING OF BROKERAGE CONTRACTS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I consider the Burns Fry information to be very relevant and important. We want to be certain that all these privatizations are not being used as a way of awarding very lucrative business to the friends of the Government.

Again, if I phoned and asked for that information, as the Minister has invited me to do, will I get it?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the privatization exercise, we have employed a great number of firms. I would be happy to make the list available to the Hon. Member. There is no problem there whatsoever.

The reason we are employing a considerable number of outside advisers is to make sure that we are protecting the Canadian taxpayer in every way possible in the sale and divestiture of Crown assets by ensuring that we have the best possible advice. The list is much longer than just one firm. For that reason, I would like to take it under—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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SOCIAL SECURITY

INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Since he and the Minister of Finance promised to reconsider budget cuts to social programs when the economy improved, and since the P.M. feels the economy has improved, will he agree to take steps now to index family allowances fully for January? It will cost only \$75 million.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we are gratified by the manner in which the economy is responding to the leadership shown by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Epp (Provencher): We are also pleased the Hon. Member's Leader has recognized that fact. What we are saying to her—as we have said in the Budget and as we have said subsequently—is that the Government is looking at further social policy initiatives on an ongoing basis. Obviously we want to get the finances of Canada and the deficit under control. Let me say to the Hon. Member that the best guarantee she and Canadians can have for better social programs is for us to have an economy that can afford those social programs. That is our job. That is the relationship between social and economic policy, and we will continue on that path.