

Atomic Energy of Canada

Cordoba, Argentina, is anticipated to be \$130 million, despite between \$70 million and \$80 million having been written off, are we to assume that under the original agreement AECL signed with the government of Argentina the loss, before renegotiation, would have amounted to between \$200 million and \$210 million?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, one can say, from hindsight, that if the contract entered into by AECL and the Argentinian agency had not been renegotiated, the loss would have been of the order the hon. member mentioned.

Mr. Mazankowski: Including agents' fees?

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister said the report he received from those who reviewed the activities of AECL gave Dr. Foster a clean bill of health with respect to any questionable relationships concerning the renegotiated agreements. Is the same true about Mr. Lorne Gray, who was largely responsible for negotiating those agreements? I think a moment ago I talked of Dr. Foster. Actually, Mr. Gray negotiated most of these agreements. Has the minister's investigation considered that aspect of it, and does it give Mr. Lorne Gray the same clean bill of health which those who looked into this matter have given Dr. Foster?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I made clear in my statement earlier that there had been managerial deficiencies going back many years. Undoubtedly, as I told the hon. lady for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), the original contract was poorly written. It was also based on poor estimates. Most of this was done some years, certainly some months, before Dr. Foster took over as chief executive officer of the corporation.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister has not really answered my question. I am not talking about incompetence or lack of judgment in the making of estimates. I am following up on questions the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) asked. Large sums of money, for which we cannot account, changed hands. The public accounts committee cannot account for them; the minister cannot account; nobody in AECL can account for these moneys. Naturally, one wants to know where this money went. It is perfectly clear that Dr. Foster has a clean bill of health with respect to any questionable practices. I ask the minister this question: Has he investigated, and can he give the House the same assurance about Mr. Lorne Gray?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the hon. member made that point clear. The investigation is being conducted by the RCMP. I have not directed the RCMP to investigate any persons in connection with the series of transactions to which the hon. member alluded.

Mr. Paproski: You had best ask Goyer about that.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

Mr. Gillespie: I can tell the hon. member that I have no reason to believe Dr. Foster in any way was involved in any improper action.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): What about Mr. Gray?

Mr. Gillespie: Nor have I received information showing Mr. Gray was involved in any way in improper actions.

Mr. Symes: What about other officials?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[English]

ANTI-INFLATION ACT

MEASURE TO EXTEND RANGE OF PERSONS TO WHOM
ANTI-INFLATION GUIDELINES APPLY

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-59, to amend the Anti-Inflation Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, because the government makes fun of national unity by not allowing the House to work in the two official languages, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette):

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is on the motion of the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin) and seconded by the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette): That this House do now adjourn. Does the House adopt said motion?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.
And more than five members having risen: