

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MR. ALIOUNE BONDIN BEYE,
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OF INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATION, OF MALI

Madam Speaker: I wish to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our Gallery of Mr. Alioune Bondin Beye, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Mali.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANADAIR—REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL
COMMITTEE TO RETURN CORPORATION'S CREDIBILITY

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister and get back to the initial question about the Canadair case.

Although we are invited to look to the future instead of looking back, the Prime Minister must realize that the company's reputation, and we are not out to criticize the objectives of Canadair, has suffered a body blow. In the circumstances, in order to restore the credibility that is essential to any industry that wants to make progress, could the Prime Minister perhaps respond positively to invitation of the Leader of the Opposition to create a special committee, to restore Canadair's much-needed credibility, in the best interests of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I think that has already been done. The Corporation's credibility was restored today, when the Leader of the Opposition, in a departure from the policy practised by his Party for a year or more, when their objective seemed to be to destroy Canadair, with its jobs and technology, when the Leader of the Opposition, followed by the Member for Joliette, said they now want to co-operate and make Canadair into something constructive. I can only repeat to the Member for Joliette what I said to his leader, namely, that we shall consider the reports that will be made in a few days by committees of the House, in fact by the Joint Committees of the House that are examining Canadair's financial situation. Let them listen to the Minister responsible, Senator Austin, who, as soon as the Committee is ready, will make proposals for long-term objectives. Let the Opposition then decide in favour or against, but I hope it will be in favour, and in that case, the credibility that was destroyed by members of his own Party and, I am sorry to say, by a CBC program that was aired a few weeks ago . . . this credibility is being restored, and personally, I welcome the decision of the Opposition Parties to support our policy of continued assistance to Canadair.

Mr. La Salle: I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker.

Oral Questions

Is the Prime Minister accusing the Progressive Conservative Party of discrediting this company? The Prime Minister knows perfectly well that the Progressive Conservative Party criticized the administrators appointed by this Government to manage the company, and if it is now evident that the company's administrators have failed in their task, I feel that a Special Committee would be useful in order to expose these administrators, get rid of them and restore the company's credibility. Madam Speaker, that is why I am repeating my question to the Prime Minister and asking him to withdraw his statement that this Party has discredited the company. Our Party has discredited poor managers, and the Prime Minister is certainly the first person to realize that today.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I appeal to the memory of the Members of this House, which I hope is better than that of the Member for Joliette. Hardly six months ago, when we wanted to bail out Canadair by making new capital advances, this met with the opposition of the Hon. Member's colleagues on the Progressive Conservative benches. They wanted Canadair to die, thus repeating, 20 years later, the destructive impact on aerospace technology when they killed the AVRO program.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—CANADIAN RESPONSE TO UNITED STATES
SECRETARY OF STATE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Acid rain is destroying our buildings, killing our lakes, and doing untold damage to the health of our citizens. The Minister himself on the weekend said it had become part of a global crisis. After five years of negotiation, all that the U.S. Secretary of State was able to deliver in his meetings last weekend with our Ministers was a commitment that maybe within a year another proposal will be discussed. Will the Minister tell the House what his response was to this American foot dragging?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I am glad the Leader of the New Democratic Party has discovered the issue of acid rain at last. I would like to add that his information is a bit mixed up and fuzzy, as quite often is the case. If he wants to know what the Canadian position was in Halifax, which was stated very clearly, I will tell him. We said to the American delegation, and to Mr. Ruckelshaus, that we have a plan in Canada, that we have already moved toward the reduction of acid rain emissions by 25 per cent, that we are anxious to move with the Americans because we know that the ultimate objective of 20 kilograms per hectare per year can only be achieved together, and that