

Parliament is losing its control of the public purse. That is extremely important because the role of this institution itself is to be able to control expenditure of the taxpayers' money. What this Bill does is set aside the rights of parliamentarians and the institution of Parliament itself to be able to analyse the individual budgets and fiscal accounts of any one corporation. It denies Parliament access to these corporations.

My wish would have been to have made every Crown corporation subject to an appearance at the call of any special standing committee of this House whose obligation would be to call corporations before it, without reference to the Minister, and to ask that corporation to justify its existence. If we, as Members of Parliament, through the committee structure, and without having a ministerial reference necessary, could point to any Crown corporation and say we want it to show up in front of us in the committee room for whatever period of time is necessary, then put it through a drilling documentation of its fiscal accounts, I believe Canadians by and large would be better served.

I asked the question, Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago about the justification of the CBC's news program, *The Journal*. It might be that after close examination the Government could justify that expenditure. However, I can tell you quite frankly that the vast majority of Canadians, if they were simply asked if they want to spend \$1 million a week for a 40-minute television program, would answer, obviously, no. We should have that opportunity to bring Crown corporations which are using the taxpayers' money before Parliament, the people's representatives, and put that very basic and fundamental question. Not to be able to do that, Sir, is simply another indication of Parliament losing its power and control.

The CDIC was established in secrecy. It has operated since 1982 and it remains immune from Parliament. It is so immune that it is even immune to the Combines Investigation Act. Yet, Sir, that agency which was established two years ago is just now coming before Parliament for authority to exist. The truth of the matter is that it exists today with a most suspicious character. I submit that we have every reason to doubt and question a corporation which came into being out of such secrecy when, in fact, these Crown corporations ought to be completely open.

The Auditor General tells us all, tells Canadians everywhere, to be worried and concerned about the sub-level of government which exists in the Crown corporation structure. The Government's answer to that is to take people like Joel Bell, Maurice Strong and the good Senator from Vancouver and put them at the head of the head Crown corporation. On the very face of it, it seems to me that Canadians everywhere would be annoyed, disgusted and disappointed at such an agency. This hidden layer of Government simply becomes hidden by another layer.

● (1530)

In his speech, the Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) said that he did not know whether CDIC is to expand intervention in the Canadian economy or to privatize

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the present Crown corporation. I submit, that if you cannot see what the intentions of this new corporation are, you would not be able to read the letter E on an eye chart. It is obvious what the new corporation is for. It is not there for the purpose of decentralizing or privatizing. It is there to get control of the economy and to expand.

As one reads through the objectives of the CDIC, one sees numerous references to expansion and acquiring. There are numerous references which would imply that this corporation is to encourage growth of Crown corporations. Nowhere within those objectives is found the word "divest". There is no indication that we will somehow be able to rid ourselves of some Crown corporations. There is not a single hint that at some time some Crown corporation may have lived its useful life and should be set aside. It says only that we should acquire more and more.

In spelling out the mandate for this new super corporation, the dangerous word "none" was typed under the title "Restrictions". No restrictions were to apply to this new super corporation. The Government creates a Frankenstein, and then will not tell him where to play or what time he should go to bed. It is a case of creating, with the people's money, an agency so strong and powerful that in and of its own initiatives it can acquire and project new corporate structures under the name of Government. That is a dangerous concept. All Canadians should recognize that this ought not to be passed into law.

The country and Government need more openness rather than another layer of underbrush and fog. CDIC has been operating for two years, without the approval of Parliament, in conflict with the existing federal laws. Coming into this great new agency now are Maurice Strong, Joel Bell and Jack Austing. Maurice Strong is the man who bought Petrofina for twice the value of its shares. He is going to be running this corporation. Joel Bell is the person who said that Petro-Canada would not acquire a single service anywhere in Canada. He is coming in as part of the management of this new agency. Jack Austin associates himself with the uranium cartel. Those are the people who will run this new corporation. The Government tries to make us believe that the purpose of this corporation is to privatize.

When Joel Bell says that, I believe him just as much as when he says that Petro-Canada will not acquire a single service station. If this agency is to privatize Crown corporations, let us see that specified in the objectives. With the words "acquire" and "obtain", and without the objective of divesting, the Bill remains dangerous and should be either amended or rejected.

Sending Maurice Strong, Joel Bell and Jack Austin to privatize Crown corporations is like sending a tomcat to guard mice. It just will not happen. Why should the people of Canada believe that these persons, with the records which I have just indicated, are in any way interested in the private sector?

I have many more comments which I would like to make, Mr. Speaker. I got through about one-half of my notes. I see