

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, June 9, 1983

The House met at 11 a.m.

• (1105)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville) moved:

That this House rejects the centralizing and interventionist policies of the Government as an ideological thrust aimed at introducing socialization of the Canadian economy by the back door and without the authorization of Parliament, and a definite and present threat to the freedom of Canadians.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this motion quite clearly and succinctly zeroes in on the main root of the problem that exists in our nation of Canada today. It is with increasing frequency, increasing obviousness and increasing clarity that the economic, social and political ills of this country can be directly linked to the massive Government intervention, collectivism and centralization that has been provided by the Liberal Government, aided and supported by the NDP, which is tantamount to a Liberal-NDP coalition. The tragedy is that all Canadians are paying the price, particularly those Canadians who face the task of seeking work and who find themselves on the unemployment rolls.

There are signals and warnings from literally every corner of Canadian society that this direction must change. There are admissions even from Members of the Government and apologists for the Government that this social experiment is not working and must be changed. There is a clear recognition that it has failed.

But what do we get from the Government? It basically steamrolls ahead, keeping on in an unrelenting fashion day by day, further penetrating the economy. In the course of that it is crushing the entrepreneurial spirit of Canadians, the creative spirit of Canadians and their innovative capability. It is destroying the confidence of the business community and is confiscating hard-earned taxpaying dollars from Canadians.

What is most important is that there is an underlying erosion and suppression of Canada's fundamental and basic freedoms. Just yesterday, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) admitted to the House that the Government had lost control over a major Crown corporation, namely Canadair. He admitted that the Government was misled. The Government admitted that the mismanagement of this country had continued unchecked for a long period of time. The Government admitted that it failed to exercise proper accountability and to

ensure the proper managerial expertise in this company, primarily because to a point it selects its friends to the board of directors rather than selecting people on the basis of their expertise. What happens? The Canadian taxpayer has been faced with the loss of \$1.5 billion. This amount will probably reach \$2 billion by the time this fiasco is through.

• (1110)

What has the Government set out to do? It really does not set out to correct the problem; it sets out to establish a bigger, bolder and more blatant monster by transforming the Canadian Development Investment Corporation into a Crown Corporation. It is really further perpetuating the problem that existed heretofore. Why does the Government do it? I suppose it is so it can appoint a few more of its friends to high positions and power and can further penetrate the marketplace. The combination of penetration of the marketplace and mismanagement can only amount to one thing—more dollars from the taxpayers' pockets.

The Globe and Mail just stated with reference to the Canadian Development Investment Corporation that it is a holding company to end all holding companies. It will be the largest holding company in Canada. It will have share capital of \$1 billion. It will be able to borrow up to \$3 billion. It is not accountable to the shareholders, or to the average Canadian who is the shareholder. It is not accountable to Parliament but to Cabinet. There is no control with regard to the value for money that will be expended. It has the ability to spin off numerous other Crown Corporations, to buy and to sell without any reference to Parliament and without a word of debate. Above all, Mr. Speaker, it can do this with no reference or control by the Auditor General of Canada. These monsters grow and multiply like rabbits.

What is more important and is becoming increasingly a concern of Canadians is that the Government proceeds with such blatancy and contempt for the taxpayer that Canadians from coast to coast are rising up and saying "Enough is enough." We have over 400 Crown corporations that are literally out of control. Let us look at Petro-Canada for a moment. When Petro-Canada was established it was to have been merely a modest window on the industry. It was to be involved in state to state trading and in exploration and development, particularly in those areas where the private sector did not enter. It was to encourage energy self-sufficiency. It did this because of the encouragement and the mandate from the Government.