

programs for 43,000 Indians in Saskatchewan by \$12 million? How is it possible in the province of Ontario for somebody outside the department to accept money from Indian affairs, to put that money into a bank, to allow it to stay there for months gaining interest, and then to take the money out of the bank, put it where it was supposed to go in the first place and pocket the interest? We certainly need more than an Auditor General; we need a Comptroller General.

How is it possible that someone in the Department of Indian Affairs in a position of trust could arrange to have materials belonging to the department used in the construction of an apartment building in some other province, the stamp of the department being covered over with paint? Why is it that conduct of this kind is not answered for by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Faulkner)? Why is it apparently of no concern to his parliamentary secretary? Why is it totally ignored by the chairman of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development? If things are that bad in one ministry, what are they like in others?

In the past year, Crown corporations have given us all cause for serious reflection. One of the classic cases is the affair involving Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited. If there was ever an urgent need for consistent standards of auditing public expenditure in the hands of Crown corporations, this is one outstanding example. Reading from the minutes and proceedings of the report of a sub-committee of the Public Accounts Committee on this matter, I note a letter from the judicial authority of Argentina. In this letter, which was sent to Canada through its ambassador, the Argentine attorney general's office had this to say—I am talking about the cozy little deal in which AECL took part:

● (2052)

(a) The actual payment of 5,000,000 dollars to a presumed "commercial agent" has been established.

(b) The commission was paid in equal parts by AECL and ITALIMPIANTI, for the apparent purpose of obtaining the award of the contract.

This, sir, is from the government of Argentina, written in Spanish and then translated.

(c) ITALIMPIANTI advanced 300,000 dollars towards payment of the commission between the months of March and May of 1973, depositing the final balance of 1,000,000 dollars in the month of January 1975.

(d) It has been possible to reconstruct the bank movement of these funds.

I am talking about Canadian tax dollars, not just the tax dollars of large corporations, businesses and industries. No wonder they are having problems surviving. The economy is a clear reflection of that. I am talking about the smelter worker in my home town and the pulp mill worker some 25 miles removed, in Castlegar. I am talking about the sawmill worker at Kootenay Forest Products in Nelson who has a wife, who has four children to raise and to put through school and who is working his backside off for five months out of twelve just to pay income taxes to this government so it can fritter them away and pour them down the drain.

(e) The responsible Canadian officials ordered payment of the part corresponding to AECL, following instructions from ITALIMPIANTI.

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(f) The Canadian parliamentarians were unable to ascertain the identity of the presumed "commercial agent", in spite of having brought in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who appear not to have obtained concrete results up to the present.

I would bet it was not without one hell of a fine effort at trying.

(g) ITALIMPIANTI, which admits the intervention of the "agent", indicates that this latter was dispensed from issuing receipts or supporting documents and refuses to identify him.

(h) For the most part, the funds which made up the presumed "commission"—

Five million dollars.

—were concentrated in a Swiss banking institution, using a coded account for this purpose.

That is a very familiar story. It does not matter whether it is AECL or the mafia, it is an intrusion into Canada's democratic system. It is a distortion of honesty. It is corruption of the lowest and highest order at one and the same time. It demonstrates skill in manipulating funds through Swiss bank accounts. It demonstrates the total insensitivity and uncaring attitude of the government. It demonstrates one of the reasons that the taxpayers of Canada are absolutely fed up with the nonsense which goes on in this government, and that will be reflected in the next federal election.

In that legacy of spending we see some shocking examples of the blunders of the Canada Council. If hon. members would care to read the minutes of the Canada Council appearance before the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, they will find that when the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman) questioned a director from the Canada Council, he was told that in no way would he, the Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts), who is responsible for the Canada Council, or the standing committee have access to the reports and files indicating the manner in which the Canada Council was spending the taxpayers' dollars which this parliament gave to the Canada Council, totalling \$64 million, so that somebody could write a poem, the title of which is so obscene that I cannot repeat it in this House. That is the kind of garbage we have to put up with. It is time hon. members on both sides of this House were provided with the authority to act against people who spend amounts of money like that in such an irresponsible fashion.

We do not need one comptroller general; we need a dozen of them and a half dozen auditors general to clean up this mess which is the legacy of the spending of this government, and that is just the top half. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre has said that when there is a change of government and the cans of worms are opened, the smell will fill this chamber.

One of the difficulties with this bill is that the provision for a comptroller general is in one simple paragraph. How can that be arranged? It will be arranged by regulation. God knows we have seen other bills pass through this House dealing with regulations. I can account for half a dozen bills about which the minister responsible has said "Trust me". We trusted them with Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited. We trusted them with the Canada Council. We trusted them with Polysar. We even trusted the Minister of Transport (Mr.