

Oral Questions

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question? He has been enumerating quite a number of things.

Mr. Blenkarn: Well, certainly. Let me give it.

Madam Speaker: Let us proceed to a question.

Mr. Blenkarn: Madam Speaker, we will get to the question. The question is: where are the reports? Why have the reports not been filed? Why does the Government of Canada continue to let Canadair flaunt the law?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I do not accept the premises of my hon. friend's question. I could be wrong, but I do not think that the year end of Canadair has taken place as yet. I will check into it. Like my hon. friend, I want to see the requirements of the Financial Administration Act properly met.

Mr. Blenkarn: It is amazing that the President of the Treasury Board does not know the year end dates of his own corporations.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board also knows that under Section 70 of the Financial Administration Act the capital budgets of a Crown corporation must be approved by the Government and filed with the House. How does he now come to this House demanding \$240 million for Canadair—

Mr. Nielsen: On his knees.

Mr. Blenkarn:—without filing a capital budget, at the same time saying that this money is for equity in the capital of the Crown corporation?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, the supplementary estimates in question will be studied by the appropriate Committees of the House. The Committees will certainly be in a position to be assured and satisfied that they have the relevant financial information. I will be consulting with the Minister responsible, to be in a position to assist him in providing the necessary information.

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CANADA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT CORPORATION

COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS—TERMS OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue and it also concerns the Canadian Development Investment Corporation Bill. I should tell the Minister that we in the New Democratic Party feel that Crown corporations must be open, accountable, and free of patronage, if they are to survive.

If the Minister were to study the Bill would he agree with me that the people associated with the CDIC comprise the same old group, the Strongs, the Bells, the Austins, and the Cohens, the old NEP gang, the return of the Jedi, if you like, who are known for being elitist and independent of Parliament? Can the Minister tell the House how he can say that the CDIC is responsible and accountable to Parliament when, in fact, the CDIC will be almost completely directed by Order in Council?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I find the question of the Hon. Member rather amazing, because I was myself pleasantly surprised today to read a headline in a newspaper saying that the new Corporation would provide more information to parliamentarians, and more important to the public, about the activities of these corporations, and second, that parliamentarians would also be able to question the managers of these corporations and hold them accountable to Parliament. Indeed, the bill contains provisions requiring the parent corporation to file regular financial statements for its subsidiaries, as a result of which parliamentarians will be able to ask questions, be better informed about management matters, and give a much more detailed account of the administration and operations of these corporations to their colleagues and the public.

[English]

Mr. Waddell: The Minister should have the experience of trying to challenge an Order in Council, as I did. It took me three years to get into court to challenge the pipeline Order in Council.

Mr. Lalonde: No case.

PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question in a more general vein. If the Minister reads the Bill, he will find that there are, in fact, inconsistent goals in it. At first, it is to privatize. Second, it is to have a window in the industry, for some corporate or commercial information. Finally, it speaks of a corporate plan, which is more like modern social democratic economic planning. I want to ask the Minister which is it.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Smile, Svend.

Mr. Waddell: I know that the Conservatives do not like that. They want to sell it off.

Mr. Beatty: Who would buy it?

Mr. Waddell: Is it, in fact, the purpose of the Government—because it is not really spelled out; it is inconsistent—to begin modern economic planning to solve the work crisis we have in Canada by using the Crown corporations in part, or is it just to provide a tool, a vehicle for the old Austin gang to play some