

Oral Questions

or do we try to rescue it? On the matter of rescuing it, I do not think the Hon. Member could come forth with anybody in the private sector who would be prepared to take over or buy the assets of Canadair or de Havilland now.

Some Hon. Members: Not now.

Mr. Trudeau: My case rests. Since the Opposition recognizes that the private sector would not take it now, we have a choice of letting that industry die or of keeping it going with government funds. We chose the latter. If the Opposition chooses to let it die, it should say so now.

Mr. Blenkarn: The Prime Minister will know that we have lost \$1.4 billion. The Government has come to the House of Commons for another \$240 million. That will not even last us through the balance of this year. The Government will have to return to the House of Commons for more money later this year. Somewhere along the line we need some sense of accounting and some sense of accountability.

REQUEST THAT ALL CROWN CORPORATIONS BE AUDITED BY
AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister another question. In the CDIC Bill there is no provision for the Auditor General to audit the accounts of CDIC. The Auditor General has indicated that every other aircraft company audited its books in such a fashion as not to capitalize interest, as not to capitalize free flights to "nowheresville", as not to capitalize promotion items, but this company did.

● (1425)

If we had one consistent auditing system we would know where we have been going, and where we have been going wrong. We would have known five years ago, four years ago—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I cannot let the Hon. Member go on. He must ask a question.

Mr. Blenkarn: I am just trying to have equal time, Madam Speaker.

Will the Prime Minister now undertake, as far as the Canada Development Investment Corporation is concerned, that that corporation—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member very often asks questions in Question Period. He knows that he cannot go on in this manner.

Mr. Blenkarn: I will repeat the question. Will the Prime Minister now undertake that the Canada Development Investment Corporation and its subsidiaries will be audited by the Auditor General?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I think the Government is doing even better. It is asking that the accounts be audited by the House of Commons. That is why their accounts are in front of the House of Commons. Surely, if the Hon. Member wants to address the

real question, it will be on how we manage that company now and in the future. Whether it is audited by the Auditor General or not is secondary. There are successful companies in Canada in the private sector which are obviously not audited by the Auditor General, yet the audits made by qualified auditors in Canada are accepted by everybody. Therefore, that is a secondary question.

The main question is how to ensure that management in the future should be good and should be accountable. That is the question. Short of being able to pass it on to the private sector, which the Opposition says is not possible at this time, we can either let it die or we can make sure that it is managed in a way which is responsible to Parliament. This is the purpose of giving it to the CIDC. That is why we now have the Minister in front of the parliamentary committee responding on the management and undertaking to do certain things.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CENTRAL AMERICA—UNITED STATES MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, the tensions in Central America grow greater every day. The U.S. military involvement, directly and indirectly, is also growing greater. The Prime Minister, to whom I direct my question, has called for an end to all foreign intervention and the opening up of political discussions and negotiations. On Friday evening the Secretary of State for External Affairs, although he repeated that call at the meeting of the United Nations Association, failed to condemn increased U.S. military presence in the area and justified U.S. actions in the area because it is strategically important. Is the Government now saying that there is a need and a justification for U.S. military involvement in the region?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I agree with the Secretary of State for External Affairs that Central America is an area of strategic importance to the United States. I agree with the proposition put forward by the President of the United States that all sides should withdraw outside military systems and other forms of arms. That is the Canadian Government's policy. In the meantime, it is obvious that the other side is not withdrawing its military support. Therefore the bargain put forward by President Reagan is not being accepted by the other side.

The question the Hon. Member asks is on what is best for the future of that area. I think it is arguable that merely military intervention will not solve the problems of Central America. The problems go far beyond that. In that regard the Secretary of State for External Affairs and myself have held views which are somewhat divergent from those of President Reagan and the U.S. administration. I know that when one begins to say that, the Opposition gets all bewildered and says: "Well, is he in agreement or is he not in agreement?"