

to apply to the number of Crown corporations that exist. I think there should be a basic law on which we can hang the incorporation or creation of new Crown corporations. I find it most offensive that one of the largest Crown corporations should have come into existence even before the amendment to the Crown corporations notion through the Financial Administration Act has been voted upon in Parliament.

Two years ago, Mr. Speaker, you may recall that there was brought into being an instrument called the Canadian Development Investment Corporation. It was first incorporated on January 12, 1982. Now I see that Bill C-25, which is the Bill immediately succeeding Bill C-24, tries to put a little bit of legality, and parliamentary legality particularly, into this series of Orders in Council starting January 12, 1982. I suppose there could be one going through today for all we know, maybe taking over another Crown corporation.

On May 25, 1983, the CDIC legislation was given first reading in the House. There is a year and a half. That is extraordinary when you come to think of it. Here we are a year later and we still have not had the CDIC legislation brought before us for second reading.

There is some jiggery-pokery going on about Crown corporations. I think I mentioned on an earlier occasion I was rather surprised that the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) should have this sort of legislation brought forward to the House. His advisers are consultants in the matter of drafting legislation and he should have approved the legislation in this form.

This brochure that was issued in anticipation of the arrival of Bill C-24 mentions as well that the Government will be responsible for the strategic and budgetary decisions of all parent Crown corporations, and through them their wholly-owned subsidiaries, and for any directives the Government issues. These directives will be tabled in Parliament. That strikes me as being a far cry from the Crown corporation notion as it first came into being.

I see, Mr. Speaker, that you are signalling that my time is running out. However, Mr. Speaker, I would commend to you and to anyone interested in Crown corporations between now and six months hence, when we shall be examining this Bill again after committee hearings to look very carefully at the brochure issued by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) in March, 1984 entitled *New Legislative Proposals for Control and Accountability of Crown Corporations*. They are not legislative proposals for Crown corporations; they are amendments to the Financial Administration Act, which I think is quite the wrong way to proceed, Mr. Speaker.

*Financial Administration Act*

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Mrs. Mitchell)—Indian Affairs—(a) Tabling of legislation to remove discrimination against women. (b) Position of Minister; the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie)—Copyright—(a) Provision of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—material for schools. (b) Procedure followed in United States.

● (1630)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[*English*]

**FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT**

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Ouellet (for Mr. Gray) that Bill C-24, an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act in relation to Crown corporations and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Crosbie (p. 3688).

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine):** Mr. Speaker, once again I wish to say a few words on Bill C-24, and I support the amendment to put this matter over for another six months.

Of course, the purpose of the Bill is to amend the Financial Administration Act to provide greater Cabinet control over Crown corporations and to provide greater accountability to Parliament. That is a real task. As we have pointed out repeatedly, the Bill does not have enough teeth.

The Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) referred to a recent document which was put out by the Treasury Board entitled *Crown Corporations and Other Canadian Government Corporate Interests*. Having looked through this publication, I find the number of Crown corporations and their subsidiaries to be almost unbelievable. It is a clear indication that there is absolutely no control of their growth. It seems that everyone sets up his own little Crown corporation.

In 1962, there were only 28 Crown corporations controlling \$8.4 billion in assets. Today there are over 300; at least we think that is the figure. We really do not know because we cannot obtain an exact number. Today, these over 300 Crown