

Oral Questions

Petro-Canada in energy. In light of the statement made by Senator Austin, and the tremendous unemployment in this country, can the Acting Prime Minister tell this House and the Canadian people why his party is breaking yet another campaign promise? Why is the Liberal government throwing in the towel?

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, the hon. member would be better off reading our press releases instead of the reports in *The Gazette* or other Canadian newspapers. He would realize that this decision in no way contradicts our intention to sell the government's shares in the Canada Development Corporation, nor does it contradict the commitment made by the government during the last election campaign. If he read the press release, the hon. member would realize that Senator Austin, who is responsible for the CDC, indicated that, with the consent of Parliament, we would be establishing a new company, wholly owned by the Canadian government, in order to help the latter make the appropriate decisions, both in terms of selling its CDC shares and advising us on new investments.

[English]

MANDATE OF PROPOSED NEW CORPORATION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, I have not relied only on press reports; I have here some letters that were exchanged between Senator Austin and officials of the CDC. The Senator says in one place that the CDC has failed. In a second place he says that it has fulfilled its mandate. He talks about a new corporation, and he calls it a new corporation wholly owned by the Crown. Yet in another place he talks about a holding company. Can the minister, who is speaking on behalf of the Senator, tell us what the mandate of this new Crown corporation will be? What are its objectives? Why is the government creating a new corporation when the CDC was established for that purpose in the first place?

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I am, perhaps, not as fluent in English as the hon. member, but I have also read the letters to which he is referring, and in those letters the senator states that, after ten years, the CDC has clearly fulfilled its mandate and achieved the objectives for which it was created, the first one being to enhance Canadian ownership of industries, which was fully attained. Furthermore, the CDC has become one of the major resource companies in Canada and, within the Canadian commercial sector, it is the Canadian company with the greatest impact in terms of risk capital and the purchase of high-technology companies.

[English]

AIRPORTS

MIRABEL—MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIONS

Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport relating to the Dorval-Mirabel situation. As the minister is aware, one of the major reasons for the pressure on him for the transfer from Dorval to Mirabel coming from municipalities in the Mirabel region is the matter of infrastructure costs which these municipalities incurred in anticipation of economic spin-off activity. Would the minister give consideration to possible assistance to the communities thus affected by this infrastructure burden in order to relieve the pressure on them, and allow the government to make a decision based on real, common sense interests relating to this situation, namely, the interests of the Montreal travelling public, the interests of the Montreal business community, and the interests of the Canadian airlines that are very much concerned about the possible effects on their profits of options being proposed for a move from Dorval to Mirabel?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the hon. member is asking me if I intend to be a good minister. The answer is pretty obvious; yes.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pepin: It is a difficult exercise; otherwise it would be already resolved.

In this particular instance there are some fairly obvious conflicts of interest between groups of people and areas, depending upon where they are located.

Mr. Bradley: Conflicts of interest within caucus.

Miss MacDonald: The problems are all located in the back benches.

Mr. Pepin: In my usual compromising and friendly way, I was hoping to find compromises that would accommodate the greatest number of people. I have listened in recent weeks—because the tension has been particularly acute in recent weeks—to every idea on the subject, and I am still open to others. That is all, because I see Madam Speaker is signalling the end as a television producer would.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

LEGAL COSTS INCURRED BY EXONERATED NURSE

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. The day before yesterday in answering questions posed by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings concerning the Susan Nelles case and compensation for her legal costs, the Solicitor General said that the hon. member should direct his attention to the