

CROWN CORPORATIONS

IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION IN URANIUM CARTEL CASE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister who will be fully conversant with the circumstances surrounding the uranium cartel case before the Supreme Court. This morning the Supreme Court of Canada handed down a split decision which indicated there was Crown immunity available to Eldorado Nuclear and Uranium Canada. Mr. Justice Dickson, speaking in the majority, pointed out, and I quote:

The more active Government becomes in activities that had once been considered the preserve of private persons, the less easy it is to understand why the Crown need be, or ought to be, in a position different from the subject.

He pointed out that, because Parliament has spoken on this, the Supreme Court had no ability to find anything except that the *prima facie* Crown immunity prevailed. Under the circumstances, is the Government going to continue to hide behind this technicality of law, or will it change the law so that Crown corporations in this instance can be duly prosecuted and brought to account for their actions in the cartel?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has brought forward a very valid question. I suggest to him that the Competition Act which will be brought forward very shortly will address this problem, and that we expect him to support it fully.

REQUEST THAT STATUTE LAW BE AMENDED

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I am talking about the uranium cartel by which the Government used the vehicle of Crown corporations to induce private corporations to enter into cartel arrangements for which they are now being prosecuted. Is the Minister prepared in this instance, as in a general sense, to bring in a change to the Interpretation Act so that Her Majesty will be subject to the laws of this land, except where Her Majesty is specifically exempted under that statute? Is the Minister prepared to take action with respect to this matter, and in general?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I cannot help but be slightly amused by this question because, just a couple of weeks ago, Members opposite were vehemently opposed to any kind of retroactive legislation. I would advise the Hon. Member that in this case the legislation will not be retroactive. However, I expect him to support actively the changes that he is advocating, and he can expect to see them in the new competition legislation.

Oral Questions
AGRICULTUREANDERSON-VANDERMEULEN REPORT ON BEEF CATTLE
INDUSTRY—REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture dealing with the subject of stabilization in Canada's beef cattle industry. It also deals with a recently re-released report for which the Minister is responsible, entitled "An Evaluation of the Cattle Beef Industry of Canada", more familiarly known as the Anderson-Vandermeulen report. It deals with stabilization and supply management in the cattle industry. Is the Minister willing to take whatever steps are necessary to have that report tabled in the House if necessary, so that it can be properly referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture for a full and proper debate?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the provincial Ministers of Agriculture have had the report to which the Hon. Member refers, for several months. If I understand correctly, some of the press has had it as well. If it cannot be obtained, I will certainly investigate that, because I have not made any decision with regard to it not being made public. Therefore, if it is not being made public, I do not know why.

• (1440)

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Madam Speaker, I am sure that the Minister is confused. The report I am asking to be tabled is the Anderson-Vandermeulen report. This report was dated March, 1982, but was re-released two weeks ago. Is the Minister afraid to table that report in the House? Can he tell us that he will properly refer that report to the committee?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I am fully aware of the report referred to by the Hon. Member. It is a report made by two people, Anderson and Vandermeulen, who went over all of the commission reports that were made before, including the one by the Senate, the one I had made, and the one done by a province. They studied those reports, talked to people and made their own report, and that is the report that all of the provincial Ministers of Agriculture in Canada and some members of the press have. If the Hon. Member does not have it, I do not know why he does not have it. If he has asked me for it, I do not know why he did not get it. However, it is a public document and he can have it if he wants it.

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FISHERIES

WEST COAST INDUSTRY—POSSIBLE EXPROPRIATION OF
VESSELS—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who will be aware that, over the last three years, a