

*Oral Questions*

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, since the Minister responsible for Canadair is not in the House, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister as well. We have heard from a number of previous questioners that there are a number of questions that must be answered. There have been accusations in the media and elsewhere about the possibility of bribery and kickbacks. We have had Mr. Joel Bell brought in to clean up the situation and, really, all we find is a person who is covering up the situation.

As the Leader of the Official Opposition indicated, this ought to be dealt with in a non-partisan fashion. Since two parliamentary committees have looked at the matter and have been hamstrung in their operations, I should like to put my question to the Prime Minister. Would he consider taking this matter out of the political arena and calling for a full public inquiry under the Inquiries Act?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Riis:** Madam Speaker, I hope by that response this is not the kind of Crown corporation marketing practice that we will have to expect.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I have said several times in the House that there is no necessity to comment on the answers. Just the questions are important.

## LEASING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JET AIRCRAFT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, I have a very simple question to put to the Prime Minister. When one of the salesmen for Canadair makes a deal with a company in the United States to buy a jet, and says that Canadair will lease back that jet until it is paid for, is that not a bribe or a kickback?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I am informed that the Chairman of CDIC has stated quite explicitly that that kind of practice, though it existed in the private sector, is not one which he would intend to condone or repeat.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. He will recall that the other day he said that the conflict of interest guidelines apply to American subsidiaries of Crown-owned corporations. In view of the obvious breach of the conflict of interest guidelines by three officers of Canadair Inc. in the United States, leasing a plane from themselves for their use around the company—and I point out that it was a Cessna Citation, the opposition's plane at that—why are these people still working for Canadair Inc.? If they are, do the conflict of interest guidelines that the Prime Minister has put in place mean anything at all?

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, regarding the Hon. Member's actual question, I would like to remind him that the guidelines prepared by Treasury Board and applying to the Department do not directly apply to Crown Corporations, which draft their own guidelines covering relations between their employees and corporations other than their employer. In the specific case mentioned by the Hon. Member, the Canada Development Investment Corporation made a careful study of the contract and found that the contract had been authorized by Mr. Kearns at the time. Normally, according to the guidelines, the contract should have been approved by the Board of Directors of Canadair before it was approved by Mr. Kearns. That did not happen. Legally, however, the contract, which was signed and, if I am not mistaken, expires in December 1984, still stands. The Chairman of the Canada Development Investment Corporation examined this case thoroughly to make sure that no one connected with Canadair stood to benefit personally by the contract.

*[English]*

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Madam Speaker, if the Prime Minister will not get into these difficult situations I will carry on and put my supplementary question to the Minister of National Revenue.

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S SALES COMMISSION EARNINGS

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** The Minister of National Revenue will know that one David Hurley, Vice-President of Canadair Inc., has made over \$1.5 million in sales commissions selling 100 Canadair Challenger jets over and over and over again. This is the same David Hurley who came to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, trade and Economic Affairs and made misrepresentations about the optimistic sales forecasts; this is the same David Hurley—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Would the Hon. Member ask his question?

**Mr. Blenkarn:** My question is very simple, Madam Speaker. Why is the Government expecting the House of Commons and the people of Canada to have faith in Canadair when it continues to employ that type of person?

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I would ask the Hon. Member to follow the example of his leader who told us not to worry about the past, and who realizes that the Canada Development Investment Corporation will put Canadair back on the right track. I would therefore ask the Hon. Member to do as his leader says: stop worrying about the past and look at the positive measures taken by the Canada Development Investment Corporation to help Canadair get back on its feet and move ahead.