

facts that we already have, which are that the numbers of inspectors have actually decreased since the Tory Government took office? Why did the Government do that?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the first fact is that the Department of National Health and Welfare has not cut the inspectors. The second fact is that when the Leader of the Opposition was the Prime Minister, and when Herb Breau was the Minister of Fisheries, they approved that fish and that procedure. They approved the inspection procedure and the canning of the fish.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** That was the system at that time. Today it is being improved.

#### FOOD INSPECTION DEREGULATION INQUIRY

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. We know from information gathered previously that hours allocated to food inspection have been decreased by the previous Government and are continuing to decrease under this Government due to the philosophy of deregulation of food inspections. Does the announcement made in the House today by the Minister of Fisheries indicate that deregulation of food inspection is now a dead issue and that we will return to the kind of food inspection service that we had before?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, there is no question whatsoever of deregulation in the food industry. For the Hon. Member to be sowing that kind of seed of fear in the hearts of Canadians is totally unworthy of him. If anything, the regulations applicable to food inspection will be tightened in order to ensure the highest possible standards of health and safety for the Canadian consumer.

#### AVAILABILITY OF INSPECTOR'S REPORTS

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Fisheries has just acknowledged that they have to tighten up those regulations, can he tell us how consumers will be able to monitor the food inspection system so that they will have a way of knowing that their health and safety are being protected? At this time consumers cannot get the reports of the federal food inspectors. The only reports we are able to get are those from U.S. inspectors who do annual tests of Canadian plants and file the information through the information laws in the United States.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members will recall that when I was answering questions of a similar nature some time ago, I mentioned the food inspection services with respect to the work of the Ministerial Task Force on Program Review. At that time I mentioned an improved and centralized food inspection service that will eliminate the overlap and duplica-

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tion of four Departments of Government. I am happy to inform Hon. Members that that work is progressing very well and is very close to completion. It will see vast improvements in the application of a regiment of regulations that will insist upon the highest standards of health and safety for all consumers in Canada.

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#### CROWN CORPORATIONS

##### SALE OF DE HAVILLAND—COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. I am glad to see him back in good health.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kaplan:** Knowing the Minister, I am afraid he has retained his obsession with dumping de Havilland at any price. Having followed the debate, as I am sure he did, has the Minister watched the public interest in the matter? Is he now prepared to take some of the 90 days that he negotiated within which this deal can be closed to tell Canadians what the real deal is all about, in order to settle the confusion and uncertainty and fill in the blanks before the deal closes?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, may I first thank the Hon. Member for York Centre for his kind personal remarks and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Hon. Members who sent such kind good wishes to me while I was in the hospital and afterward. It was very much appreciated.

● (1430)

In answer to the Hon. Member's question, I have been following the discussions. In fact, I have been both disappointed and almost alarmed in many ways that a deal, which I think is essentially a good deal, should be given a negative side and that misinformation is being circulated concerning it.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** There is no information; that is the problem.

**Mr. Stevens:** I am sure that the Hon. Member, and other Hon. Members, will probably be pleased to hear that I certainly have no objection, and neither do my colleagues, including the President of the Treasury Board, to this matter being considered at the appropriate time by a committee of this House, at which time the information, other than that which may have some commercial sensitivity, can be put before a committee for full discussion.

Hon. Members will also be interested to know that this can be done prior to the closing of the deal. It turns out that while we are anxious to close this deal by the end of the month, in order to save about \$60 million which the Crown may have to provide to de Havilland in additional financing, partly for procedural reasons and partly because Boeing has no objec-