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present Auditor General and several others and the Lambert Commission, has clearly said that there is a serious problem which must be addressed if this is a parliamentary democracy.

Liberal Governments keep saying, "Yes, yes, we are looking at it", but then do nothing. Why? The reason is that Crown corporations are very convenient tools by which to avoid some of the messiness of democracy, because there is no question but that democracy is messy. It requires the disclosure of information which sometimes one does not want to disclose. It requires that satisfactory procedures are followed and that is sometimes a little bit annoying. There is no question but that dictatorship, having to account to no one, is a far more convenient system by which to work for the person who has the power. However, it is not democracy to have that kind of system.

It is a very convenient process for Government. It is a convenient repository for the party faithful, for people to whom the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) or the Party is obligated. For instance, when the Hon. Member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey) lost out in his little excursion into provincial politics in Ottawa Centre, he was appointed Chairman of Air Canada. It was a lovely position with a marvellous salary. We do not know what the salary was and we are not allowed to find out. We can find out the salaries of the chief executive officers of every single American airline. We can find out the salaries of the top executive officers of any private Canadian corporation, but not of Air Canada. How good was he as Chairman?

Mr. Benjamin: You're going to find out in the States.

Mr. Andre: We know that his favourite waiter received a pass for two to fly to London and back. We know that the Hon. Member for Lincoln enjoyed that.

Then, of course, there is Jack Horner, the CNR Chairman. We do not know what he is getting paid. We are not allowed to find out. As well, Maurice Strong and Joel Bell of the Canada Development Investment Corporation passed no Public Service Commission exam. We do not know their salaries. We do not know what they are doing on behalf of the people of Canada.

Mr. Benjamin: Ian Sinclair!

Mr. Andre: They are appointed, they are not elected. Is it not, just on the face of it, perverse that appointed people have all of this power while elected people have none? Is that not, on its surface, perverse and anti-democratic, except to the turkey from Regina, who feels that once one is appointed to the Government, one attracts an aura or a halo and then suddenly becomes honest?

To the Government, Crown corporations are a convenience through which to pass benefits on to their friends, and to use and abuse. Consider the example of Mr. Mike Phelps, who was the executive assistant to the current Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) when he was Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The rules will not allow the Minister of Finance to pay his friend, Mr. Phelps, what he thought Mr. Phelps was

worth, so he arranged that Petro-Canada would pay him a salary in addition to the salary allowed under the rules. Petro-Canada mortgaged his house in Rockcliffe so that he could live in the style to which a man of his stature should be accustomed. As a Member of Parliament, I cannot afford to live in Rockcliffe. That is because I am merely elected. If I want to make some money, I should become a Liberal and then become appointed to something.

In the 1981 report of Petro-Canada, under "investments", there is listed \$16.5 million in mortgages. Therefore, in addition to Mr. Phelps, there is a pile of Liberal friends whose houses have been mortgaged, interest free, I might add, by Petro-Canada. I have been trying to find out where these investments are and whose houses Petro-Canada has invested in. I cannot find out. I am merely elected by the people of Calgary Centre; I have no ability to find that out. As an elected person in a democracy, I do not have that authority.

Crown corporations are useful ways by which the Government can prevent the disclosure of uncomfortable information. The uranium cartel is a perfect example. What a fraud! On the one hand, there was a cartel. Therefore, Eldorado Nuclear and Uranium Canada were charged as participants in the shell. Jack Austin, the guy who organized it, did not get charged. The organizer does not get charged. A couple of Crown corporations are charged and then another Government lawyer comes forward and says, "Oh, just a minute, they are agents of Her Majesty; they cannot be charged". Voila! With one little move, Crown corporations have been put above the law. Now, no Crown corporation can be required to obey the law because they are agents of Her Majesty. Therefore, that whole sub-government out there does not have to account to Parliament. It does not have to obey the law. The Government's Crown corporations are useful ways by which to avoid responsibility.

Hon. Members recall when Atomic Energy of Canada Limited sold reactors to Argentina. The then Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the present Royal Commissioner, Donald Macdonald, said, "My, what a marvellous thing this Crown corporation is; we are just selling reactors around the world". Then when the Auditor General pointed out the fact that that sale would cost us in excess of \$200 million, the successor to that minister, the Hon. Alistair Gillespie, said, "Oh, I do not know anything about it. It is the Crown corporation which did that. Do not ask me to account for that \$200 million plus in taxpayers' money we have blown in Argentina. That is not my responsibility; that is the Crown corporation's." So they are very convenient in order to avoid responsibility.

Then there is the use of Crown corporations to distort what is actually happening to Government. In that semi-budget of October 27, the Minister of Finance made a statement in reference to how careful the Government has been in terms of spending public funds and how it is restricting growth. I quote from page 7.