

Points of Order

Did the minister follow the advice of his own agencies? If not, could the minister explain to the House what possible reasons he could give for not following that advice?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is quite right. There were three recommendations from the CANMET review.

First, that the Department of Industry, Science and Technology confirm that the contractual arrangements with the Nova Scotia Power Corporation were in place and assess the significance of failure there. That of course we did because without that contract, there would not have been any cash flow to speak of.

The second recommendation was that Westray had to demonstrate and disclose its efforts to secure commercial lending.

The third one is the one he is quoting, that the Department of Industry, Science and Technology consider a more in-depth geological mining processing economic evaluation of the type undertaken by commercial lending institutions on projects of this magnitude.

Remember that our role in this was purely financial. We were guaranteeing a loan. We did further studies of a technical and financial type in order to make sure that our guarantee would be reasonable.

• (1200)

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minister for indicating to the House that further studies and the advice of the department were followed. We look forward to getting that information in the weeks ahead.

My specific question to the minister is this: On page 5 of the agreement consummated by the Government of Canada, Curragh Resources Inc. and the Bank of Nova Scotia, it says the lender—

—made specific disclosure to the minister of the risks associated with the project in a letter dated September 14, 1990.

I ask the minister responsible if he would explain to the House the nature of those risks, both commercial and otherwise, and if he would be so kind as to table the contents of that letter in the House of Commons so that all members will have an opportunity to review its contents.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the hon.

member, with 2,000 pages of evidence and documentation, will not have found all of it. But, in fact, the analysis of those questions is in the documents that I tabled yesterday.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to members' attention the presence in the gallery of the Hon. David Warner, Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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POINTS OF ORDER

WESTRAY MINE DOCUMENTS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism in response to my question said that he was going to be tabling more documents with regard to the Westray situation. Yesterday in *Hansard* the government House leader indicated that there really is no relevant information missing.

Mr. Speaker, we were given 2,000 pages yesterday and we were told by the government House leader that there was no relevant information missing. We got an answer today from another minister during Question Period that there were more documents to come.

I would simply ask this: Does the government have another package of information that is coming on Westray? If so, when are we going to get it?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, we are getting into debate here. The hon. member should have completed my comments from yesterday where I said that "the total documentation would be several feet high and require a forklift". In fact, there is no attempt to keep anything inaccessible to him or anybody else. They will be made available in the library room at Industry, Science and Technology.

The minister of state for small businesses said today that if there is a line up for certain pieces of documentation in the library, we will certainly table those so that they will be accessible rather than forcing everybody to go over there. But the object is to have—

Mr. Murphy: You didn't mention the library.