

*Crown Corporations*

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, in the light of the two motions moved by the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Public Works, I ask on behalf of my colleague the hon. member for Greenwood if the parliamentary secretary would consider also moving that the subject matter of Bill No. C-105, order No. 68, be referred to the same committee?

**Mr. Stewart:** I shall be glad to look at that particular order to see if it cannot be treated in a similar way.

**Mr. Knowles:** It deals with insanity too, so let us get it off the floor.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED UNDER ADJOURNMENT MOTION

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock this day are as follows: the hon. member for Chapeau (Mr. Laprise), Agriculture—importation of eggs into Canada; the hon. member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Bell), Trade—Canada-West Indies—steps to bring about improvement; the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis), External Affairs—assistance to developing countries in population control.

**CROWN CORPORATIONS**

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

**Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre)** moved:

That, in order to provide elected representation on the boards of crown corporations and other companies as may be owned, operated, or controlled by the federal government, this house is of the opinion that the government should consider the advisability and the expediency of taking such steps as will provide for the appointment from time to time of members of this house as unpaid directors of some or all of such crown corporations or companies for a term not longer than the life of one parliament.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I hope the house will be as amiable in dealing with this resolution as it has just demonstrated it can be in dealing with the two motions put forward by the parliamentary secretary. Before I commence my remarks on this subject I should like to say a word of encouragement to the new members of parliament in connection with any bills or notices of motion they may put on the order paper. In February, 1964, I put this motion on the order paper. Since that

time a number of sessions as well as an election have intervened and a new parliament is in progress.

I can only suggest to new members, who feel some discouragement about their particular ideas which they would like to be discussed publicly, that they should not be discouraged but put them on the order paper and some day, as a result of that famous draw for position that takes place in the Speaker's office in connection with motions and bills, they may get up to No. 17. This will mean that they will be able to air their views.

I suggest that the motion today is an interesting one, not just because it is in my name and seconded by the hon. member for Coast-Capilano (Mr. Davis) but because it does cover an area of increasing public concern. Regardless of the disposal of this motion today, Mr. Speaker, I hope we have a good discussion of it. I hope we can have a non-partisan discussion because a reading of the motion will indicate there is no mention of the fact that representation on these crown corporations should be only by the members of one party or those representing the government side of the house.

• (6:10 p.m.)

There are three purposes underlying the notice of motion and I should like to put them forward for consideration. The first is that such representation on the boards of directors of crown corporations would serve as a taxpayers' watch dog. Second—I will elaborate on this as I go on—there is an opportunity provided for involvement and participation on the part of members of parliament. I believe that this involvement and participation is very much in line with the thinking of most of the private members of parliament these days is something which could be raised, and we should be working toward that end. This raising of the status of private members is the third purpose of the notice of motion.

With regard to the first point of having what I call a taxpayers' watch dog on various crown corporations, and they fall into different categories, this is doubly necessary at a time of increasing expenditure on the part of public bodies which largely are cut off from any direct responsibility to the taxpayers, the people who in some instances are subsidizing their very operation.

I might not have put this motion on the order paper if that trend toward indirect