

in particular authority relating to harbours, ports and harbour commissions.

Clearly, the Prime Minister has chosen to ignore the legitimate request of the city council of Hamilton, and the Minister of Transport shouting from his seat basically indicated to the House that he had no intention of acting on the legitimate requests of the city of Hamilton.

All we are asking for is a fair public hearing so that we can restore public faith in the process. If we cannot get the fair hearing outside the House of Commons—surely this place is a relevant place to get that kind of hearing—once again,—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. Again I regret to interrupt the hon. member but parliamentary tradition is that we should refrain from referring to the presence or absence of a colleague. Again I would urge the hon. member to co-operate with the Chair and stick to the subject matter of the bill.

Ms. Copps: You may have misunderstood what I said. I did not refer to the presence or absence of anyone. I said he was not prepared to deal with this issue. He was in the House, he was shouting insults all the time, but he was not prepared to talk about the issue. That is the point I was trying to make.

Still, Mr. Speaker, I think I got my message across and I hope the Minister of Transport will show a bit of leadership with respect to this bill, precisely to show Canadian taxpayers that he is careful when he spends their tax dollars.

[*English*]

All I want—my colleague the member for Hamilton West intends to pursue this issue with me as well as the member for Hamilton Mountain—is some simple taxpayers' justice. We want the taxpayers' money to be respected, and we want to make sure that when the government is moving with a new bill, it puts in place the guidelines, and in particular the audit and the instruments that are necessary to protect the taxpayers of Canada, and protect the integrity of the system.

We would like to see that done through this bill, and in expanded form. In particular, we would like to see an omnibus bill to clean up the mess that currently is

Government Orders

characterized by, among other things, the Peter Lush affair and the Hamilton Harbour Commission.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

An Hon. Member: On division.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

* * *

[*English*]

CROWN CORPORATIONS DISSOLUTION OR TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Friday, October 26, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lewis that Bill C-73, an act to provide for the dissolution or transfer of certain Crown corporations and to amend certain acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take very much time, but I want to be on record in support of the excellent statements that have been made against the privatization of a number of the corporations on the minister's list and included in this bill.

We have made the case from our point of view that as Toronto members—and I am referring here to speeches made by Toronto members—it does no service to the citizens of Toronto to dissolve the Toronto Harbourfront Corporation. Harbourfront has proven its value, and that goes without saying, but, more than that, it is an important window for the Government of Canada into the city of Toronto.

I know the argument: Why is the federal government taking care of parks? Why isn't that done by the provinces? Why isn't that done by the municipalities? In other words: "Why", the Tories ask, "should the federal government be doing something that other levels of government can do?"