

to know what is going to happen with the planes after the Dash-7 and Dash-8. If the Minister has assurances that research will continue and expand in Canada, will he do the right thing and let Canadians know the nature of those guarantees before signing a final agreement with Boeing? Let us know what those guarantees are. Will the Minister table them in the House?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we have the guarantee of the world product mandate. We have the guarantee of retaining our technology in this country. We have the guarantee of increased R and D in de Havilland in Canada and that, from a high tech point of view, is a very good deal.

Mr. Broadbent: There isn't a guarantee.

DATE OF DECISION TO SELL

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the President of the Treasury Board. I am going to give him a little respite from the questioning. I just want some information. At what date was the decision made to see de Havilland, and when was de Havilland given the directive to open its books to the corporate planners and accountants of the—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hovdebo:—bidding corporations?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the exact dates, I will be happy to take that under advisement and give the Hon. Member the specifics. In terms of the decision to privatize de Havilland, it was a decision taken by this Party. It was discussed at great length during the election campaign—

Mr. Broadbent: Right, at whatever cost.

Mr. de Cotret:—and announced very shortly after we took office.

● (1440)

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT PROVISIONS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, since Section 99 of the Financial Administration Act requires that directives to Crown corporations be tabled before the House, would the Minister please tell us why those directives regarding the sale of de Havilland have not been tabled before the House?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): First, Mr. Speaker, it is not a directive to de Havilland. It is the shares in de Havilland that were held by the Crown through CDIC which are being sold.

Oral Questions

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

ROLE OF PRIME MINISTER

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Last September in his deathbed repentance on patronage, the Prime Minister said:

Many of these steps are long overdue, and heaven knows this Government—

Some Hon. Members: Shush.

Ms. Copps: Believe me, if you shush me you're not going to shut me up so you might as well quit it right now.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: It's about the only thing that the surfers in this Parliament can do.

The Prime Minister stated in September that the Government has had cause to regret the absence of those steps. Is it not in fact true that, according to leaked documents that came from the Prime Minister's Office today, the Prime Minister himself was in control of the patronage monster to the point where he approved, not once but twice, every single patronage appointment that crossed the Government's desk?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I want to say for the record that I would not dream of shushing the Hon. Member, at any time. In regard to the question she raises, as my right hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, knows full well, custom requires that the Prime Minister sign all Orders in Council and that is the only reason for the involvement. All Orders in Council in this regard are submitted by the Ministers. They represent the very best people available in the country, and we are honoured that so many have accepted our invitations.

REPORTED LEAKING OF DOCUMENT

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, in his former incarnation as a member of the Opposition, the Prime Minister said: "There's no whore like an old whore". Is it not true—

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

An Hon. Member: He said it.

Ms. Copps: Is it not true that the Prime Minister—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That's a sexist statement.

Mr. Gauthier: Why did he make it then if it's sexist?

Ms. Copps: Is it not true that he has personally had a hand, not once but twice, in every single patronage appointment that has been put forward by the Government at least since last January when that memo was written, or does the Prime Minister deny the existence of the secret memo from his office?