

Supply

This evening, I shall vote against the motion of the Progressive Conservatives, Mr. Speaker, because they have once again demonstrated what Mr. Fotheringham calls their ineptitude. During the last minute remaining to me, Mr. Speaker, I would not want to deal with the Arrow, our great and fantastic plane made in Canada, which was scrapped by the Progressive Conservative Party. So I will not deal with it. I will not deal either with its unemployment insurance policy or anything the Canadian people want, except their filthy rich members.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, and before the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Clark) has a stroke, I want to say that we will definitely vote against this motion and that it is unfortunate that a party which thinks it is on the brink of returning to power does not have among its members responsible people who could have supporting evidence and use it properly.

[*English*]

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Laprairie (Mr. Deniger) concluded his speech with a surprising statement. He said he was going to vote against the motion. Sheep are expected to do nothing else but as they are told. You know it, I know it, and everyone knows it. Judging by the Hon. Member's speech, he is not allowed to think either. It was the most atrocious speech. What made it more atrocious was that it followed the eloquent speech given by the Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty). I do not know how any responsible Member of Parliament, after listening to the Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe, could not end up feeling anything but rage about this situation or anything but dedicated to do something about it in order to restore some semblance of parliamentary democracy to this country.

The Hon. Member for Laprairie said that the question is whether there will be Crown corporations; whether they are approved or not approved. He was absolutely wrong, as he realized when he made that false statement. That is not the question. Every Party in this House, whether directly as the Government Party or indirectly through associated parties at provincial levels, has participated in the creation of Crown corporations of one sort or another. The question of whether there is a role for Crown corporations is not in doubt. There are, in certain circumstances, situations where Crown corporations are useful.

The question we are concerned with is, is this a Parliamentary democracy? Do elected representatives of the people have a right to know what is happening in these Crown corporations? Do elected representatives of the people have a right to say when these corporations will be created, how they will be created and what their budgets and operations will be? No Members of Parliament have that fundamental right, or are we forced, because these are Crown corporations, to remain mute and ignorant as these corporations spend huge amounts of money—\$30 billion a year—which belongs to the taxpayers. All too frequently this Government wastes huge amounts of money.

I do not know whether the President of Treasury board (Mr. Gray) heard my colleague from Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe when he gave his final analysis. I suggest that the Minister read the speech because he gave a warning that we view this question as fundamental to our responsibilities as Members of Parliament. I see the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) sitting over there as well. I suggest he may do well to read that speech.

Unless something is done soon about the problems which were articulated by the Auditor General and expanded upon by my Leader and the Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe, there is, quite frankly, little or no use for this Parliament to carry on. That was the message being conveyed. The question as to the purpose of this place is so important that it takes precedence over almost anything else. That message should be heeded by Members opposite who have a sense of responsibility and would like to see passage of other legislation and other programs.

• (1720)

A study of this issue of Crown corporations is almost a microcosm. It is not a microcosm because it is larger than that, but it is almost an analysis, if you will, of what is fundamentally wrong with the situation in Canada. The Government is out of control. There is no sense in the country that we in Ottawa, the Government and Parliament, the people who have the responsibility which has been entrusted to them by the citizens of Canada, really know what is going on, are in control and have some sense of propriety with regard to the expenditure of taxpayers' money, some sense of responsibility, some sense of the future and a plan by which to address the many concerns of Canadians. This situation involving Crown corporations is exactly parallel. It is, as the Auditor General said, a sub-government. In fact, in terms of employees it is larger than the bureaucracy. It is larger than the main Government. The situation is totally out of control.

My colleagues pointed out that Crown corporations can be created at will, at any time, by two or three people who are appointed, not elected. They have no mandate from anyone. They have been hired for certain jobs. They can create new corporations, obligate the people of Canada for the debts of those corporations and spend not just hundreds, thousands or millions of dollars, but, rather, billions of dollars without being held accountable to anyone. However, the people of Canada are responsible for making those payments.

If we are a democracy, then this problem must be addressed. The chronology has been gone over. The Auditor General made the statement in 1975 that the financial accountability and management of Crown corporations is out of control. From that observation came a study in 1977. It was not a bad study. From that came draft legislation which the Progressive Conservative administration introduced and intended to have passed. Since then, there has been nothing except a proliferation of new Crown corporations. The problem has become even worse. What has happened? Why has this problem not been addressed? Everyone who has examined it, including the