

Mr. de Cotret: We are putting a cap on a bottomless hole that sank more than \$830 million of their money into a corporation that has, to the end of December, a book value of \$140 million and only because there was a capital injection of \$200 million during the year. We are telling the taxpayers of this country that we are putting an end to an endless flow of taxpayers' dollars—an estimated \$200 million into that company next year—and making it profitable and good for the employees and Canada.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF TOXICOLOGY CENTRE AT GUELPH, ONT.

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. It concerns the Canadian Centre for Toxicology at Guelph. It is my understanding that the board of that Centre now intends to raise all of the capital privately in order to build the Centre. Therefore, will the Minister give some assurance that requests for research funding as such would be looked on favourably by his Ministry?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am looking at the matter very carefully and with a sympathetic eye. As the Hon. Member will know, the Government has put a high priority on toxicology research and in fact established a \$1 million fund last February for that purpose, especially in the wildlife area.

However, we are conscious of the need to consider individual proposals in the context of an over-all program rather than making separate ad hoc decisions. The Hon. Member can be sure that the individual proposal to which he has referred will be considered in that light.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

SALE OF DE HAVILLAND—ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, we have asked 10 questions intended to elicit information with regard to the de Havilland sale to Boeing. All that we have found out is that the Minister does not intend to tell Parliament the nature of the deal until it is completed. Why does the Minister not feel it appropriate that the Parliament of Canada should be given access to the documents that will result in the sale of the Havilland to Boeing prior to the sale being completed?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. We are selling a commercial enterprise under the terms and conditions that we have outlined to every Member of the House. When the final details are completed we will be more than happy to advise everyone

Oral Questions

in the House of the Commons, the dotted "i"s, the "t"s and so on. You know all of the information that can possibly be germane to the public debate at this time.

REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF INFORMATION BEFORE COMPLETION OF SALE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, why is the Government not providing the information in advance of the deal being closed? Do you not believe that Parliament has a right to know what the Government of Canada is doing?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, for once I find myself in total agreement with my hon. colleague. The Government has a right to know.

Mr. Deans: Parliament.

Mr. de Cotret: I want to assure him that the Government does know.

The supplementary question will be obvious, Mr. Speaker. Very soon they will ask the Minister of Finance to refer his budgetary proposals to a cabinet committee before he presents them to the House. We are managing the Government in a management-like fashion. We are concluding a deal that is good for Canadians, and we will proceed with it.

RIGHT OF PARLIAMENT TO INFORMATION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not recognize that this is not a private deal among friends in the Cabinet? This is a sale of a public company to a private operation from the United States. Why does Parliament not have the right to know?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): It is a very good question.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition says that it is a very proper question. When the Liberals purchased de Havilland why did they do so through a devious fashion and not introduce it in the House at all? The purchase was not introduced or discussed in the House. If it is such a good question, why did the Liberal Party, the Government at that time, not follow the advice it is preaching right now? Where are we?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

GAZ MÉTROPOLITAIN'S PURCHASE OFFER FOR GULF REFINERY IN MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy,