

*Oral Questions*  
GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to deal with the previous legislation, Bill C-153. Have the Minister's officials yet told him what his policy on Crown corporations is? If so, can he confirm to the House that the Government is scrapping the approach that was proposed in Bill C-153 and is moving back to a model which is more similar to Bill C-27, the P.C. Bill?

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think my hon. friend's new Leader would want officials to tell us what our policy should be; I think that should be decided by the Government, and be confirmed by Parliament, if my hon. friend is serious about improving the role of Parliament. We are working very actively and seriously on a new Bill. I hope that my hon. friend will be patient enough to wait to see what is in it when I present the Bill early in the New Year, I hope. It is designed to respond to a range of very useful comments and criticisms about the previous Bill which, in spite of my hon. friend's remarks, was still a very useful and important effort to deal with the need for an improved accountability framework for Crown corporations.

CREATION OF SUBSIDIARIES OF CROWN CORPORATIONS

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I want to refer the Minister to a confidential Treasury Board document dated November 18, 1983. It is a discussion paper on the points which will be included in the Government's Bill when it is introduced in January. One of the provisions in Bill C-153 to which the House objected, was the ability of Crown corporations to incorporate subsidiaries without any word of approval from Parliament. For example, CDIC would be able to buy or create any new Crown corporation anywhere in Canada or abroad without a moment's debate in Parliament, if it used internally generated funds. Will the Minister confirm, as is shown in this discussion paper, that the Bill which will be introduced by the Minister in January will include that provision, and that in fact there will not be proper parliamentary control over the creation of subsidiaries of Crown corporations?

● (1120)

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, there are many documents prepared by officials to assist in discussing the development of policy. I can say to my hon. friend that no final decisions have yet been taken by Cabinet on the contents of a new Bill. I know that my own inclination is to have a comprehensive piece of legislation which addresses very broadly a whole range of concerns which have been expressed about the previous legislation, in order to achieve an objective which I think is the objective of both sides of the House, and that is to have an improved framework of accountability and control for our Crown corporations.

TRADE

BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON INDUSTRY—PROPOSED BAN ON EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of International Trade who, I am sure, is aware of the vital importance of the British Columbia salmon industry, both domestically and internationally. Recently the Governor of Alaska, Mr. Bill Sheffield, proposed measures to ban the sale of our Pacific salmon into the United States. I believe all Members of this House are aware of the efforts made by the Minister of International Trade, and his colleagues, internationally, in spending millions of dollars on lobbying and advertising efforts to try to assure the marketability of Canadian sealskins in Europe. Would the Minister tell this House, and in particular, British Columbians, what steps he has taken to try to stop this kind of economic blackmail which is being proposed against our Pacific salmon by the United States?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that, in any effort which may be taken to block the sale of British Columbia salmon into the United States, we will show the same determination and diligence in protecting the rights of Canadian exporters as we have done in relation to the threat to lumber a year ago, and the threat to potatoes—another one which we won within the past two days—and indeed we have consistently shown this diligence in protecting Canadian rights at the same time that Canada meets its obligations in international trade.

**Mr. Fulton:** I hope, Mr. Speaker, that what the Minister for International Trade is telling us is that he is sending that signal to the United States now, and that he is not going to wait until we have the situation which arose with forest products and potatoes.

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS ON WEST COAST SALMON TREATY

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** My supplementary question is in regard to the incompetence of the Government in its failure to obtain the consent of the United States Senate to force the negotiations on a West Coast salmon treaty back to the table. A final bottom line was taken by the B.C. industry on February 1 of this year. It was ratified by both the Canadian and United States negotiators. It went on the rocks in the United States, principally because of a U.S. Senator from Alaska. Would the Minister be prepared to assure the House right now that this country and this Government will not back down in these negotiations on a West Coast salmon treaty, that we are going to hold that bottom line, and if it forces this country into a fish war with the United States, so be it?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Mr. Speaker, I am not in favour of any fish wars. I believe that we can, and have been managing our trade relations with the United States on a very good basis.