

have not participated in this debate at all because there is no answer to the allegation made against the Government. The Government has used ham-handed and unnecessary devices to thwart free and democratic debate on the floor of the House of Commons.

Why is it that the Liberals are not prepared to defend the action taken on this debate, Mr. Speaker? They know there is no answer to the millions of Canadians who wonder how it can happen that two corporations wasted \$5 billion of taxpayers' money. Canadair and de Havilland, between the two of them, have caused the taxpayers to lose \$5 billion. People want to know why Members of Parliament are not debating the issue of Crown corporation accountability. It is a serious and important current issue which should be debated on the floor of the House of Commons. The Liberals, while they are in the process of a leadership review, do not want the people of Canada reminded that where Crown corporations are concerned the Government has been derelict in its duty. They do not want Canadians to know that the proposals the Government is bringing forward will not solve the underlying problems we have in terms of accountability. That is the reason, Mr. Speaker. It is not a question that somehow the Government wants the business of the House to go on. Liberals are afraid politically to have this matter debated publicly. Liberals do not want us to deal with Crown corporations *seriatim*, saying: "Here are the problems that have arisen; here is the amount of money that has been lost to the Canadian taxpayer". The Liberals do not want to hear alternatives or suggestions from the Opposition. We have made real and substantive proposals with respect to improvement of the accountability of Crown corporations.

I simply want to tell you what this Bill is all about, Mr. Speaker. One section tells it all. The Liberals say this Bill deals with the whole concept of accountability. Let me tell you how far that accountability goes. In this legislation there is provision to prevent Members of Parliament from investigating and looking at reports on the activities of Crown corporations.

Let us take a look at Clause 2.2(3) of Bill C-24 proposed by this Government. It reads:

If a committee of a House of Parliament—

Whatever that is.

—to which an order is referred pursuant to subsection (2) produces a report on the order, no motion for concurrence in the report may be moved in that House.

That is contrary to basic and fundamental principles of democracy. The Liberals are intruding on the procedures of this House of Commons which would allow Members to debate reports coming from committee stage. This is unprecedented. It is unheard of. This has never been proposed in legislation in this country before. We have the Government invoking its own form of gag of Members of the House of Commons by legislation. The Government wants us to pass this Bill on the nod without further discussion.

I will be back after lunch, Mr. Speaker.

S.O. 21

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

THE STANLEY CUP

TRIBUTE TO CHAMPION EDMONTON OILERS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish there were more government Members present, but in any event it is with national pride that I salute the new Stanley Cup champions, the Edmonton Oilers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lambert: I am sure that I speak for all Members of the House, as well as for all citizens of Canada, particularly Albertans and especially Edmontonians.

The Oilers, displaying a new breed of hockey stars—some would say superstars—and playing their own brand of fast, high-scoring hockey, won the National Hockey League schedule going away. In the finals the Oilers dethroned one of the great teams of professional hockey, the four-time consecutive Stanley Cup winners, the New York Islanders.

All of Canada won in this series. Players from all parts of Canada participated. Indeed, I doubt if any province of Canada was not well represented by players on both teams. We also saw several new stars from Finland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and the United States add to a changing game.

In Edmonton they talk of dynasties. We all remember the Edmonton Eskimos, five-time Grey Cup champions who yielded that throne only last year. Now come the Oilers. For how many years? Five at least! I go back further to the years before 1946 when the Edmonton Commercial Grads reigned as undisputed world basketball champions for almost 25 years, including three Olympic titles.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, when I assumed your chair in 1962, Mark Messier, winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy, was the youngest little fellow in the family next door.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his allotted time has expired.