

*Government Organization***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

## SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave)—Grain—Time of payments to farmers under stabilization program; the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter)—Fisheries—Convening of international conference on conservation of marine resources; the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Code)—National Defence—Proposed establishment of Canex store at Kingston base—Effect on merchants.

## [Translation]

Order. It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, private bills.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' PRIVATE BILLS****LA SOCIÉTÉ DES ARTISANS**

## BILL TO AMEND

**Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Témiscouata)** moved that Bill S-10, an Act respecting La Société des Artisans, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Gendron** moved that bill be read third time and do pass.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

● (5:00 p.m.)

## [English]

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS****GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION**

## REQUEST FOR COPIES OF STUDIES RELATING TO CONVERTING PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INTO CROWN CORPORATION

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview)** moved:

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of all studies, reviews, etc., that have been undertaken by the Government of Canada regarding the consideration being given to converting the Public Works Department into a Crown corporation.

He said: Mr. Speaker, on November 4, last year, I brought forward my notice of motion for the production of papers asking that an order of the House do issue for

[Mr. Horner.]

copies of all studies, reviews, etc., undertaken by the government of Canada regarding the consideration being given to converting the Public Works Department into a Crown corporation. I did so because, in December, 1969, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) announced the appointment of John MacDonald as Deputy Minister of Public Works. He was replacing Lucien Lalonde.

The Prime Minister said that new concepts of administration had to be brought to the area of public works. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing) was ready to introduce them. He also said that we must consider new concepts in land and building management, and that it could mean the setting up of a Crown corporation "for some facets". This would be a fundamental reform.

It should also be noted that the Prime Minister said that the Glassco Commission had recommended a Crown corporation to be active in land management. The government was the largest land owner in Canada and the largest tenant of space. It was also suggested that a Crown corporation might be the agency for federal government construction. These suggestions were made in December, 1969. The appointment of John MacDonald as deputy minister was effective on January 15. In February, 1970, Mr. MacDonald made a statement to the press which indicated that serious consideration was being given to converting the Department of Public Works into a Crown corporation with assets of between \$10 billion and \$20 billion. This shows that public works essentially is a large business. He also said that, unlike other departments, that department is a service organization. It has no policy other than that of meeting the needs of other departments. He cited an example of what he meant. He said that the use of high priced real estate for post offices and other government buildings indicated an inefficient use of government property. He also said, while speaking at Edmonton, that if the new concept were followed the department would have two arms. One arm would do the building for all the other departments, and the second arm would control and manage most of the government's land and property. In other words, he set forth a revolutionary concept because, as he said, in the field of land and property this government department is one of the largest businesses in the country.

Then he made a revealing statement. He said that it has been estimated that the government could save \$250 million annually through a Crown corporation, because it would eliminate redundancy and get the optimum return from government land. That figure of \$250 million is most striking and interests hon. members of this House. Considering that the government is planning to spend a total of \$57 million to employ students across the country during the summer months, and considering that the deputy minister has said that we could save over \$200 million annually if we converted the department into a Crown corporation, a move that would eliminate redundancy and get the optimum return from government land, it seems clear that the government could give four or five times more than the amount of assistance to the summer student employment program it now contemplates. As I said, that speech by the deputy minister was made in February, 1970. You will note that my notice of motion is