

ny Fisheries Limited by Fishery Products. The corporation will not be wound up until these arrears are collected. I understand that will be in about six months.

I now turn to the Societa a responsibilita limitata—SRL—Immobiliare San Sebastiano—

Senator Bosa: Sebastiano.

Senator Kelly: I was hoping for a nod from Senator Bosa indicating that I was not doing too badly on pronunciation.

In 1982, the Department of External Affairs acquired SRL Immobiliare San Sebastiano as a means of purchasing the official residence of the Canadian ambassador to the Holy See in Rome, Italy.

Senator MacEachen: The minister holds the shares; it is not the department.

Senator Kelly: The residence is the sole asset of the company. It is my understanding that that corporation had the asset of the residence, and the more appropriate way to purchase was through the purchase of the company rather than the residence directly, and I believe it was a good transaction.

Senator MacEachen: We hope so.

Senator Kelly: Although I did not have much confidence in the perpetrators, it worked out all right.

Senator MacEachen: It is a company residence, and the shares were held by the minister, not by the Department of External Affairs.

Senator Doady: The minister in right of the Crown?

Senator Kelly: The share in the company.

It is now proposed to change the company into a limited partnership and, subsequently, to see the property donated to the Crown. Acceptance of the gift by Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada must be authorized by the Government of Italy pursuant to Article 10 of the Italian Civil Code. I understand this matter is in hand.

Finally, I will deal with Uranium Canada, Ltd. which is a parent crown corporation listed in Part I of Schedule C to the Financial Administration Act. It was created in 1971 pursuant to Appropriation Act No. 1, 1971 and the Atomic Energy Control Act with a mandate to purchase \$29.5 million worth of uranium concentrates on behalf of the Crown from Denison Mines Ltd. over the period 1971 to 1975.

During the period 1971 to 1980, Uranium Canada, Ltd. sold or made loans of portions of the stockpile and returned some \$114 million to the Crown. During this time, however, uranium prices changed dramatically, and Canada's known reserves increased dramatically as well primarily due to the discovery of large, rich deposits in Saskatchewan. Therefore, the need for a Canadian government stockpile or government support of Canadian mines disappeared. In May 1981, the government transferred ownership of the remaining stockpile, having a book value of \$96 million, to Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. and directed the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to wind up Uranium Canada, Ltd.

[Senator Kelly.]

However, at that time, the company was charged, along with five other uranium companies, with offences under the Combines Investigation Act. The matter was not settled until December 15, 1983, when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Uranium Canada, Ltd., as an agent of the Crown, was immune from the terms of the Combines Investigation Act. Uranium Canada is now dormant, having no operations, no staff and assets totalling \$9. The company's affairs are conducted on an as-required basis by public service employees, and its resource requirements are minimal. There being no further use for the corporation, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is requesting the authority of Parliament to dissolve it.

• (1520)

I would say, honourable senators, that, having participated in a review of crown corporations over the past year and having discovered over 400 of them, including subsidiaries, this move in the direction of tidying up is, I think, important. I urge the careful and rapid approval of this bill.

On motion of Senator Sinclair, debate adjourned.

STANDING RULES AND ORDERS

THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ADOPTED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the consideration of the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, presented in the Senate on 27th June, 1985.—
(Honourable Senator Godfrey.)

Hon. John M. Godfrey: As honourable senators are aware, a couple of years ago the House of Commons established a committee under the chairmanship of our esteemed colleague, Senator Lefebvre, which committee brought in an interesting report that was adopted by the House of Commons on a trial basis. It has been two years since those recommendations were acted upon and, from what I have heard, they have worked well. What disturbed me was that there was no suggestion from anyone in the Senate—including myself—that we should study those recommendations to consider whether we could improve upon our own procedures. With that in mind, I asked three questions of Senator Molgat on three of the recommendations contained in those reports.

The first was the recommendation that, after every speech, there be a ten-minute interchange in the form of questions, short speeches and so on. I will quote what Senator Molgat said about that recommendation when he presented the report of the committee. He said that the committee,

—recognizing that we do not work with any kind of time allocation in any case or at any time, that our rules are extremely flexible at all times, that in reality senators control themselves, that there is no attempt to order too closely the procedures, and that in fact the system was working well, the committee's recommendation is that a change was not necessary, so the proposal was not proceeded with.