

and it was examined. We found that the potential of selling de Havilland to Boeing in a separate transaction yielded more significant and positive results for the aerospace industry in Canada, as it itself has indicated to us, and to Canadians in general. That is why we acted in that way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Maybe I could direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. The Minister said that the Government has changed its mind on policy important to the future of the aerospace industry. You promised an aerospace strategy and have abandoned it. Is it not right that you should at least take such an important change of direction in policy before a committee of this House, rather than abandoning the strategy without explaining why?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, again the premise of the Member's question is wrong. This was not policy. I have just explained to the Hon. Member that we looked at the situation and we felt in the best interests of the Canadian taxpayer, whom we happen to represent, by the way, that the deal we are proposing to conclude is the best one for Canadians throughout this land. That is supported by the aerospace industry itself, and most of the editorials that have been written across the country also support it.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF CROWN CORPORATIONS TO PARLIAMENT

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is for the Prime Minister. Your Government, your Party promised—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Cassidy: —to keep this industry Canadian. You promised to keep it in the Crown corporation's hands.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the House is reacting to the fact that the Hon. Member should know that questions should come through the Chair without reference to individuals.

Mr. Cassidy: I apologize. Through you, Mr. Speaker, on August 21, 1984, the now Minister of Finance said:

We will increase the accountability of this and all other Crown corporations to Parliament.

Was that a Conservative promise with any credibility or was that, too, just another broken promise as has been demonstrated in this House for the last week and a half?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we have had many opportunities to discuss this

transaction in the House. Many opportunities will come again through the normal procedures which this House has in place. We are selling de Havilland to Boeing because it is a good thing for Canadian taxpayers.

An Hon. Member: Why don't you quote?

Mr. de Cotret: Yes, the Hon. Member likes to quote. Let me quote from *The Gazette* for December 4:

This is a commercial venture best left to people with skills and training acquired in a commercial environment rather than to bureaucrats.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

● (1425)

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—REQUEST THAT STUDIES BE TABLED

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Today the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released two major economic reports indicating that any Canada-U.S. trade agreement would be an economic tragedy for Canada, clearly contrary to the assertions of the Government. The only response we have had from the Government so far has been a speech in New York, a speech in Chicago, and now an ad supplement in *The New York Times* which highlights the Prime Minister as the head of Canadian operations of a North American trading company.

When will the Government table all the studies it has prepared relating to the job impact of a trade agreement? When will the Prime Minister schedule a major debate in Parliament so that we will know what is going on?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the last time the Hon. Member rose to make a projection—

Ms. Coppins: A junior vice-president of the trading company.

Some Hon. Members: Sh-h-h!

Mr. Mulroney: There is the sweet voice of Christmas coming. The last time he rose to make a projection, I think the record will show, was in November of last year when he predicted that, as a result of the economic policies of the Government, 200,000 jobs would be lost. In fact 416,000 new jobs were created. He was wrong by almost three-quarters of a million jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: It will not come as a surprise to anybody—

Mr. Hopkins: Part-time jobs.

Mr. Mulroney: —to hear that the Hon. Member is wrong again and railing against the United States. The only person