

*Government Orders*

transferred to relevant government departments. That may or may not be a good move.

Once again I would like to have a chance to question the minister and relevant officials at a committee to see whether or not this is the efficient way or the proper way to do it in terms of the industry to do it. In terms of research and development in this country, is it a good thing for R and D to eliminate this Crown corporation that deals with patents and transfer its jurisdiction to the relevant government departments? It may indeed be the proper thing or perhaps there is some objection to it from the scientific community or from the research community in this country.

I am sure that the member of our party from Windsor—St. Clair, who is our spokesperson on research and development, might be interested in asking a question or two about this issue later on.

Another agency is the Canadian Livestock Feed Board that is very relevant to those of us in rural Canada. My riding being in Saskatchewan is one of those with people who are interested in this particular agency. I understand that the functions of the Canadian Livestock Feed Board have in essence been transferred in the last two, three, or four years to the Department of Agriculture. The functions of that agency are already being carried out by the Department of Agriculture.

Once again I would like to know whether or not the employees have been dealt with in the proper fashion. Are the employees happy with what has happened? Are the farm organizations pleased with what has occurred? Is all the jurisdiction of the existing board going to be felt in Agriculture Canada? That is the second Crown corporation that will be transferred or has already been transferred to the relevant federal government department.

The third one that is going to be transferred is the Canadian Museum Construction Corporation. That corporation was established a while back to deal with the construction in the national capital region of the National Gallery here in the city of Ottawa and the Museum of Civilization in the city of Hull, just a few metres away from the Parliament Buildings. This corporation is going to be transferred as well to become a subsidiary of the Canada Lands Company.

Again the same questions I raised about other companies and employees are relevant in this case. Also in this case I would be interested in knowing about some of the cost overruns in the construction of those museums, why we cannot be a bit more accurate in estimating how much a major building by the federal government is going to cost before we settle on the tenders and before we settle on the contracts.

There is a lot of concern by ordinary Canadians who are not in the national capital region about the cost of these two beautiful places, these two wonderful places. Before we rubber stamp this transfer by the federal government, I think what we should be doing is calling in the relevant officials to make sure that we have answers to some of those questions.

The last corporation is the Canada Harbour Place Corporation, a corporation that was given a mandate to administer properties at Canada Place in Vancouver as the Canadian Pavilion in Expo 86.

• (1050 )

I assume that this is going to be sold to the private sector. Of the six corporations that are going to be dismantled or eliminated by the federal government this is the only one, at least on the surface, that appears to be in a position where it is going to be privatized in the classical sense: in the way that the federal government has privatized Air Canada and some of the other corporations in recent years.

Those are the concerns we have in our party. In committee we want a chance to deal with these six corporations in a very specific way in terms of finding out if it is good (a) for the country, (b) for the employees working there, and (c) for the people who are interacting with these particular corporations, be it scientists or be it farmers in terms of the Livestock Feed Board or be it Torontonians in terms of the Harbourfront.

Since I know somebody else wants to make a few remarks before eleven o'clock, in conclusion I say to the minister that shortly we are going to have a major bill before the House to privatize Petro-Canada. My attitude at that time will be totally different from my attitude toward these corporations. I believe the Conservative Party is making a very major mistake going ahead with the privatization of Petro-Canada, particularly at a time when there is a crisis in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.