

Crown corporations. In my capacity as vice-chairman of a special committee, I would use as an example the Canadian Trade Corporation, which is to inquire into every possibility of developing Canadian trade and manufactured goods on the export markets.

The Liberal government is committed to the development of our export markets, the development of our manufactured goods trade, increasing our share of the global market for manufactured goods. To that end, we are considering every opportunity to find a vehicle for our small and medium-size businesses, our small manufacturers, to take part in that global market open to every nation. And we see how aggressively corporations from every nation are competing for that global market. We have been acting through various bodies, some government, some private and some mixed ones, Crown corporations acting with the private sector. I am thinking, for instance, of what France is doing to develop markets for its mixed corporations, with mixed credit provisions. That country is very aggressive on international markets.

Because the terms of reference we had on June 11 last simply referred to a national trade corporation, we received more than 150 briefs from manufacturers, across Canada and abroad. They told us: Please, do not set up another Crown corporation because you have too much control over them. You do not have enough leeway to take decisions at the right time. It is my feeling that the phrase "Crown corporation" scared the majority of manufacturers who made representations to committee members. When we talk about Crown corporations, as the hon. member for Argenteuil has mentioned, we have the corporations listed in Schedule B, which includes the Agricultural Stabilization Board and the Economic Council of Canada, those which come under schedule C, such as Loto Canada, which was then classified as a Crown corporation in this category, those in schedule D to which the hon. member for Argenteuil referred and which includes Air Canada, the Export Development Corporation, the Federal Business Development Bank and Canadair. These organizations have a private board of directors made up of directors, industrialists and companies, which can act much more quickly within the activities of these Crown corporations. From the testimonies that we have heard, I believe that the manufacturers are mostly afraid to have more control which would greatly delay the decisions made by the boards of directors of these Crown corporations.

Mr. Speaker, what is important in the terminology or the designation of a Crown corporation—and this is exactly what the two previous speakers have tried to say—is the explanation of the activities and the role of these Crown Corporations. For my part, I would like to recall in this debate that when I introduced Bill C-237, an act to provide for the accountability to Parliament of Crown agencies, my objective was precisely to provide more information to members of Parliament, not only by receiving an annual report from Crown corporations, but

also by getting a bit more involved as need be in the planning and implementation programs of the next few years.

There are certain Crown corporations where we might make some improvement in this regard. When the annual report is published, we should as soon as possible refer it to a committee of the Senate or the House, so that the parliamentarians may have more information and play a more direct role in the activities of Crown corporations. I am happy to see that the hon. member for Dollard has stated that the objectives of the present government include a review of the role of these Crown corporations, and I understand that starting tomorrow, the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates will review the role and the evolution of Crown corporations.

I will conclude on this point, Mr. Speaker. I suggest that it is a matter of defining our Crown corporations and of determining their responsibilities. According to my experience, when one mentions a national trading corporation, as I was able to learn last summer, manufacturers, businessmen, industrialists are afraid of this designation, because it is said, maybe due to excess control, maybe because decisions have to be made after consultation with several people. In the trade sector, decisions have to be made in due time, because we are aware of the aggressiveness of our competitors. Far from being opposed to Crown corporations, I suggest—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At 6 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BANKS AND BANKING LAW REVISION ACT, 1980

MEASURE RESPECTING BANKING INSTITUTIONS

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-6, to revise the Bank Act, to amend the Quebec Savings Banks Act and the Bank of Canada Act, to establish the Canadian Payments Association and to amend other acts in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs and motion No. 39.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. When the debate was interrupted at five o'clock this afternoon the hon.