

impeccable, it is hard to explain why the hon. member would have departed from that government. I am sure he must have disagreed with its basic policy.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### URANIUM PRICE FIXING TRIAL—PROSECUTION OF CROWN CORPORATIONS

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, can the Minister of Justice tell us, when he decided to lay charges against Crown corporations in the uranium cartel matter, whether he knew those Crown corporations could claim immunity?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development):** Madam Speaker, it is evidently a problem which existed at that time as it exists at this time. In fact, at that time there was a decision of the court not to grant the corporation immunity, in the case of the CBC. The position we are taking in this case is that we can prosecute Crown corporations like private corporations.

##### CLAIM OF CROWN IMMUNITY

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, when the minister brought charges against those Crown corporations did he know that they could claim Crown immunity?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development):** Madam Speaker, there are many defences which any citizen or Crown corporation can take. This is one which existed at that time. It is not sure that they will win or lose in court, but the advice I received from the commission, and from the lawyers who advised the commission, was that it was absolutely proper to prosecute Crown corporations, so I did.

**Mr. Clark:** It is obviously proper, according to this Minister of Justice, to lay charges against a Crown corporation when he knows in advance they will be protected against the consequences of those charges, as ordinary Canadians would not be. My supplementary question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Oh, come on, ask another one.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Clark:** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Justice has declined four times to answer that question. I would now like to give the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources an opportunity to answer the question.

#### Oral Questions

##### INSTRUCTIONS TO COUNSEL FOR URANIUM CANADA

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** My question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources relates to Uranium Canada, which he knows is a "shell" corporation with no assets, no offices, no employees, and no directors except the minister. Will the minister tell this House who is instructing counsel on behalf of Uranium Canada?

• (1500)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the more the Leader of the Opposition speaks, the more clearly he shows why he failed in his law studies.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lalonde:** The Minister of Justice has stated quite clearly that when he laid the charges they were laid upon the advice of counsel from the Department of Justice. The advice he had at the time was that he could lay those charges, established on a case that had been decided. The Minister of Justice stated that quite clearly, and the Leader of the Opposition completely misrepresented and distorted what the Minister of Justice said. Then he did not even have the courage to come back to the Minister of Justice again but diverted the question to me, which I am most happy to answer.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Answer it then.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Give it a try.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Uranium Canada Limited has a board of directors. That is something else which my hon. friend, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, does not appear to know. Counsel for Uranium Canada is acting on the instructions of the board of directors of Uranium Canada, which is not me. I am the shareholder. I am not the board of directors.

##### QUERY RESPECTING IDENTITY OF INSTRUCTOR OF COUNSEL

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, if I might read from the decision of the relevant Ontario court, it reads:

On May 1, 1981, all the qualifying shares of the directors of Uranium Canada Limited were transferred to, and are now presently held by, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, in trust for Her Majesty, the Queen, in right of Canada.

There is one director. It is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the minister, who is the only director of this "shell" corporation, now tell the House of Commons who instructed that Crown corporation to plead Crown immunity against the charges brought by his colleague in cabinet who knew at the time he brought the charges that that defence could be invoked to protect Crown corporations from the kind of treatment which ordinary Canadian companies have to face in courts? Who instructed counsel for Uranium Canada?