

assignment of Dr. Foster. I expect that might take place in about two months time.

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### ELECTION EXPENSES

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES BY CROWN CORPORATIONS—POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING GUIDELINES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. The report on political contributions reveals the fact that Canadair, a wholly owned government Crown corporation, and Panarctic, in which the government has a controlling interest, have both made political contributions to political parties in this country. In view of the fact that the Canadian people would undoubtedly be concerned about agencies supported by public money making contributions to any political party, I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he thinks these contributions are appropriate in the circumstances.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I am not aware of those facts, but if they are as stated it would seem surprising to me that Crown corporations, being wholly owned by the people of Canada, would want to make contributions to any political party. Here again, I suppose, we are in the area of ministerial responsibility. We have just heard an indication that in some cases members want the ministers to intervene—it is said the minister should have done so in the case of AECL; in other cases as in the case of Petro Canada, the opposition has argued that the minister should not intervene. I shall try to ascertain from the hon. member what he wants the minister to do—to take the Crown corporation to task over this or to let parliament do it at the appropriate time.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** We have been assured from time to time by the Prime Minister and his colleagues that there were guidelines laying down the manner in which the Crown corporations should carry on their operations. Is there any provision in the existing guidelines which would prohibit Crown corporations from making political contributions? If there is not, will the Prime Minister undertake to see that such a provision is placed in the guidelines and made public?

**Mr. Trudeau:** If my memory serves me well, these guidelines were made public in the House a few months ago; perhaps we could both refer to them. My memory is that they have to do with the operation of Crown corporations within the bounds of law and propriety; I do not think they refer in particular to contributions to political parties. I am sure the hon. member would not argue that contributing to political parties is improper per se though perhaps in the case of a Crown corporation, or possibly unions working for Crown corporations, we could make sure there are no contributions of that nature permitted. But I would be interested to ascertain the hon. member's views on this subject.

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** This is hardly an occasion upon which I have an opportunity to express my views but the Prime Minister surely knows by the nature of my question that I am opposed to Crown corporations making political contributions. What I am asking him is whether he is prepared to put into the guidelines a provision prohibiting Crown corporations from making contributions to political parties.

I wish to ask the right hon. gentleman also a question with reference to Polysar which he was told as far back as 1973 had been paying kickbacks into unnumbered bank accounts—a fact which has since been verified by the Public Accounts Committee. What steps has the government taken to make sure that not only Polysar but other Crown corporations will be prohibited from following such a practice in future? Can we be assured that this practice will not continue in Polysar and that it will not be pursued by other corporations? Can the Prime Minister give us this definite assurance?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I may answer the latter part of the question first, I would refer the hon. member to statements made some months ago about Crown corporations being told to operate within the framework of law and propriety. The ministers contacted the various Crown corporations at that time to make sure that these various guidelines would be adhered to. As to the first part of the question, I would remind the hon. member, as I was reminded by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on my left, who apparently was informed of these facts, that in the case of Canadair it was apparently not the property of the Canadian government at the time it made these contributions to parties. If that is true, the hon. member's question seems irrelevant. With regard to Panarctic, we are, of course, only minority shareholders and it might be very difficult to ensure that the majority shareholders do not want to recognize what political parties are worthy of their support.

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● (1420)

[Translation]

### NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

#### REQUEST FOR FRENCH COPY OF REPORT ONE WEEK BEFORE DEBATE

**Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Considering that all members sitting in this House, either French-speaking or English-speaking, have the duty to study very carefully the National Energy Board report in view of the debate that will take place in August or a little later at the opening of the session, considering also that the said report is made up of three volumes, only one of which is available in French, would the minister be kind enough to tell us whether the other two volumes are being translated now? If so, can we hope to receive them at least one week before the debate takes