

Of course, in the private sector a board of directors may hire and fire a chief executive officer as well as decide how much she or he is worth. If the Government had its way, this essential part of the decision-making process would be handled at a distance by the Cabinet. Such action is the embodiment of authority usurped. It is simply a matter of time until Peter and Paul are no longer on good speaking terms. In this sense, the Government is moving 180 degrees in the wrong direction.

There is a great deal of concern within the Opposition regarding the proliferation of Crown corporations, and for good reason. Although Bill C-24 requires parliamentary approval to create a new parent corporation, it ignores the subsidiaries. In other words, while the Government holds the gun to the mother's head, the kids are out stealing your hubcaps. The subsidiaries, which have sprung up like crocuses, will continue to proliferate unchecked. To keep the progeny of Crown corporations from becoming an unruly bureaucratic tangle, birth control is the only answer.

Another loophole in the Bill would give the breath of life to a new corporation so long as an existing Act of Parliament will facilitate it. We are stepping back into that smokescreen. It is obvious that there are already so many such Acts in place that refusal of a new corporation would be a real problem.

● (1550)

The Government also seems interested in tying the hands of Parliament in the future. With its outlandish suggestion that debate of special Acts be limited to 30 days in committee and seven hours of continuous debate, it is forcing future Parliaments into dangerous limitations. It is frightening to imagine what effect this would have on other Bills brought to the House by the Government. It would be a dangerous precedent indeed. The restriction of time leaves no fail-safe mechanism for extenuating circumstances or particularly controversial applications. In suggesting such legislation, the Government is claiming it can see the future. It is becoming apparent that the Government is having difficulty even seeing the present.

There are many vital issues which Bill C-24 fails to address. It shies away from presenting policy on matters of internal government organization. Does the Government intend to make the rules as it goes along? There is no reference to the privileges and immunities of Crown corporations. The Bill does not specify regulations as to whether public servants may sit on Crown corporations' boards of directors. Surely at least minimum qualifications for board personnel must be clearly delineated by legislation. The Bill sidesteps the suggestion that parliamentary oversight committees should monitor Crown corporations. In this matter, the Government could easily avoid the threat of cover-up accusations. If all Parties are taken into the inner sanctum, there is bound to be less suspicion of sleight-of-hand tactics on the part of the Government or the Cabinet itself.

I trust it is becoming apparent, Mr. Speaker, that the present proposal is somewhat narrow in scope, to say the least. The Bill refers only to corporations owned entirely by the Crown. There are over 100 enterprises only partly owned by

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the Crown in tandem with independent bodies. Those corporations in which the Crown has invested, but does not own, represent a healthy chunk of revenue. Why then, have they been excluded from Bill C-24? I believe that these omissions reveal the haste with which this Bill was drafted by the Government. It is the duty of the Opposition at this time to quash the haste in this issue.

It is our mandate to inject some expertise and finesse into the creation of a Bill concerning Crown corporations in Canada. We intend to institute the necessary checks and balances to prevent the Government from running out of control. The people of Canada require an amendment regarding Crown corporations, but Bill C-24 is nowhere near the answer. Instead, it is the product of Government whistling in the dark. When the Liberals hand us the reins in a few months—which is a decision of Canadians but which the polls show will certainly happen—then perhaps the Liberals will be able to see just how bright the prospects can be under new and responsible leadership.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), mentioned the news item which appeared in *The Citizen* of Ottawa and in all other papers regarding the de Havilland chiefs being given big bonuses as debts mount. Those bonuses were pretty healthy sums. I can understand a board of directors voting its officers bonuses if they are doing a good job. But de Havilland lost \$500 million, give or take, and yet here the officers were presented with bonuses in the neighbourhood of \$13,000 each, on top of their salaries which in all cases are probably well over the \$100,000 mark. I am not sure whether the bonus announcement has been made by Canadair but, on the same basis, if it is following the principle that the more you lose the more you get, I am sure Canadair officials will be licking their chops when the Government makes its announcement in that respect.

I think we are all aware of matters in Chrysler Corporation. It was almost on the verge of bankruptcy. It pulled itself up by its own bootstraps, aided by some guarantees by the Government, and I will give the Government full marks on that. Chrysler Corporation is a company that has come back and is a real success story. Its recent financial announcement revealed that the corporation had made, I believe, \$715 million in the first quarter. Chrysler Corporation also paid Lee Iacocca, the President, a bonus of \$700,000, give or take. That is a hell of a lot of money, but that bonus is justified. I suppose it was calculated on the basis of 10 per cent. If Mr. Iacocca was able to turn that company around, then he earned the money. I guess he will pay a good deal of it in taxes. When Crown corporations are able to make profits, then the officers should be given bonuses. And until that time, officers should certainly be paid the originally agreed salaries, or else get their fingers rapped or be fired.

**Miss MacDonald:** Right.

**Mr. Darling:** This brings up another point, Mr. Speaker. It concerns government Departments. I see the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) is here. What about deputy