

*Financial Administration Act*

The problem is that in the case of our sub-governments we have no control.

● (1115)

Bill C-24 will do nothing to change this sorry state of affairs. It has not happened by accident. It has come about as a result of the deliberate socialistic policies of the Prime Minister; it has been financed by taxpayers at the gas pumps, in the hotels, motels and restaurants; by old age pensioners, farmers and fishermen; and by small business owners. All of this has been at the expense of over 1.5 million unemployed.

The Crown corporations may be "ours", but has it been worth it? A recent poll indicated that 41 per cent of Canadians believe our national oil companies should be sold, while 34 per cent do not. One Liberal leadership aspirant is already making mouthing sounds about selling off the stations of Petro-Canada. I do not think we will see that come to pass because it is contrary to the policies of these fellows.

Has it been worth the outrageous deficit, the staggering unemployment rate and the loss of investor confidence in the country? I think the answer is obvious. I would suggest, however, that it has been worth it for certain individuals. It has been worth it for Jack Horner of CN and Ivan Head of IDRC. It has been worth it for Bud Drury of the NCC and Donald Macdonald. It has been worth it for Pierre Juneau of the CBC, Jack Austin of the CDIC, Joel Bell and Bill Hopper of Petro-Canada, as well as another host of Liberal hacks. They are blatant public hacks. They are parasites of the worst kind, feeding on Canadian taxpayers and dragging down the country to a state of not a banana republic but surely of a snowball republic. I would say that it has been good for the Liberals. There have been nothing but job-creation programs.

The grave concerns expressed by the Auditor General with regard to the lack of accountability of Crown corporations are well known and totally documented. There is no need to repeat all of them, but I would like to quote from his 1982 report because it goes to the heart of the matter before us today:

Parliament is becoming further isolated from an increasing portion of government activities. The growing practice of using Crown-owned corporations to conduct a widening range of government activities has so strained the capability of the existing accountability framework that Parliament may not be able to exercise its fundamental responsibility for overseeing receipts and expenditures of public funds.

That was the reason every one of us was sent here by our constituents. Unlike Hon. Members opposite, we over here will not quietly sit by while the authority of Parliament is eroded in this way.

How can we be expected to carry out our responsibilities when we will be shown under Bill C-24 only summaries of the corporate plans and operating and capital budgets, and only after the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) has had a chance to determine just how much of those will be shown to the public? Are we really expected to trust the Cabinet? Are we really expected to have confidence in legislation drafted by Ed Clark? Ed Clark gave us the disastrous National Energy Program, but what was his claim to fame? It was writing a thesis on the socialism of Tanzania. That is who is running the

National Energy Program; that is the type of people we have in Crown corporations. Where is the control over Crown corporation subsidiaries? There is none. This is the area where the greatest proliferation and mismanagement have taken place.

Why are there severe restrictions on debate of legislation to set up new Crown corporations with only 30 committee days and seven hours of debate? That is closure by statute. The Government has run itself on closure and on Orders in Council ever since it came into power.

Can we imagine a Bill which purports to give Parliament more control over Crown corporations but comes equipped with built-in closure clauses? That is legislated closure before the fact. Bill C-24 contains all that we have come to expect from the Government—increased powers for Cabinet and a gag on parliamentary debate. To Hon. Members opposite I say that this Bill is totally indefensible, no matter how many of them stand in their place, no matter how many platitudes they offer supposedly from the Auditor General. One leadership candidate is speaking out against the Bill. It would be refreshing if more of them would carry the ball as it relates to Petro-Canada alone.

This Bill will do nothing to meet the real concerns of Canadians with respect to Crown corporations. How will we address the intervention of Canada Post into the marketplace, for example? Mr. Warren appeared over national television the other day. What did he say? He said if the unions demand more money, they will increase the price. That was his answer. This is happening in all Crown corporations. The post office will continue to compete with private retailers by subsidizing the operations of Consumers Distributing. It will continue to use subsidized staff to the tune of hundreds of millions dollars a year to create unfair competition, government-controlled. There will be no recourse under the new competition Bill.

● (1120)

Bill C-24 will do nothing to curb the huge appetite of Crown corporations such as Canadair and de Havilland. What happens to the executives who mismanage billions of taxpayers' dollars? As we are all aware, they are given bonuses of up to \$20,000 for mismanagement and ineptitude. What happened in CIDA when \$25 million in taxpayers' dollars was funnelled into Haiti? They knew that fraudulent payments were being made to the people in the government there. It was a proven fact. Was anyone fired? Was one word said about it? Not a word.

We know what would have happened to those individuals in the real world. They would quickly have become part of the growing army of unemployed. Under this Government they are rewarded for ineptitude and for doing nothing. How can productivity in this country be increased in that fashion? There are unending examples of this type of fiscal ineptitude both in the Government and in the sub-government. It is fitting, is it not, that Senator Austin, who was unable to get elected, controls over half the budget of the sub-government over which the public has absolutely no control? Bill C-24 has