

Government Orders

I have reviewed this bill and I do not see any mechanism that would require the government to canvass the entire federal government. Perhaps the minister can cite the section in the bill.

The minister indicates that there is something in the bill that would require that, as a matter of law for that to happen before land is sold or disposed of.

A quick reading of the bill tells me there is not such a provision. Therefore a particular piece of property may be deemed surplus by Canada Post. Yet, Public Works or the Ministry of the Solicitor General might have some use for that particular parcel of land.

We might find ourselves in a position in which one arm of the government is doing something that could adversely affect another arm of government. I would hope that if there is something in the bill it is highlighted so that people are aware of it and that departments of the Crown know of it.

I appreciate the question from my colleague from Broadview—Greenwood.

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, I have a short question for my colleague.

One of my greatest concerns about this bill is the long-term conditions that may exist in this country. There are billions and billions of dollars worth of Crown land and Crown assets in the province of Quebec.

I would like to know what ramifications a bill might have in relation to properties whose lower value, because of the tough economic period in the province of Quebec with the national unity debate, may be an attraction to shrewd buyers. That essentially removes the federal presence from the province of Quebec.

Quite often, we know from the past in western Canada, it has been the federal presence through all departments that has held this country together. I am very nervous about this bill and its ramifications *vis-à-vis* Crown lands in the province of Quebec.

I certainly hope that there is no sub-agenda here concerning that province.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, my friend again asks a fairly serious question about what impact this bill will have if a certain option is followed in the province of Quebec.

I do not know whether an inventory has been done. I do not know whether, in the province of Quebec or the province of Ontario or any province in this country, an inventory exists of all federally owned property.

We are not talking about legal jurisdiction here. We are not talking about land that may be within the boundaries of the province of Ontario, the province of Quebec or any other province in the country. We are talking about the owners, the legal title holders of certain property in different provinces.

Mr. Mills: It could give it to the province.

Mr. Nunziata: Yes. My friend says that under this particular bill the federal government, in order to further certain political goals, might decide to hand over or to transfer certain federally owned lands to a provincial government.

I would hope that somewhere there is some central inventory of all property owned in each of the individual provinces. I think that our legislators, whether in Quebec City, at Queen's Park or in any other provincial capital, will certainly be surprised to see the extent of federally owned property in each of the individual provinces.

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I have a short comment for the Liberal member from Toronto who cannot seem to get over the fact that the Liberals lost the provincial election there last year. The people of Ontario spoke very loud and clear in that election to indicate that they were tired of the mismanagement of the province and of the kinds of deals that led to the deficit the SkyDome ran up. In a democracy like Canada the people have said they want New Democrats to clean up a Liberal deficit in Ontario, a Conservative deficit—

• (1400)

Mr. Lee: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very short point of order. I am sure every member in the House right now subscribes to the rule of relevance. I cannot imagine, for the life of me, where that particular issue came from. I would simply ask members, as I am sure the Speaker would, to try to be relevant.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Van De Walle): I am sorry to indicate now that the time has expired for the questions and comments.