

*Financial Administration Act*

who are auditing books, as well as the Auditor General himself for the tremendous job they have accomplished. The Auditor General does not fear to report, to divulge the good as well as the bad practices of the administration. The government hires good Liberals to audit books, but they show only the good side of the story.

I conclude my remarks on that, hoping that they will not fall on deaf ears, or into oblivion, but in a soil rich in ideas, so that some changes will take place, specially within crown corporations.

Before concluding my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like once more to remind the house and the minister who sponsored this bill that we would be very disappointed if this move were aimed at depriving of members of their right to participate in the financial administration of the country and giving it to the establishment. Should the present situation persist, we could rightly call the House of Commons a national debating society and we would not be administering anything anymore. Then, perhaps the Prime Minister might reasonably say that money is not growing on trees. However, it is not the establishment which is going to tell us where money is growing.

Mr. Speaker, our constituencies have great needs to fill, especially the constituency of Lotbinière. I am happy to see the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) is here. I will remind him that Air Canada seriously considers abolishing its service at the Trois-Rivières airport. That will surely be prejudicial not only to his riding but also to mine, since we are neighbours, and to the whole central area of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, that should show the hon. member for Trois-Rivières that members of parliament have no control at all over Crown corporations. He also should protest against the abolition by Air Canada of its service at the Trois-Rivières airport. That is just an example among many others we could give this whole afternoon and evening and throughout the day tomorrow. This shows how the administration of departments and of Crown corporations is increasingly taken away from parliament. In fact, hon. members have less and less influence and control over the financial administration I am even convinced that the cabinet also has less and less influence. It is a bit like in Quebec where a certain establishment is in control.

**Mr. J. A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, at last real legal minds have worded  
[Mr. Fortin.]

Bill C-172. They give us an explanation the layman can readily understand. This debate must take place in the right context, so I quote:

His Excellency the Governor General has recommended to the House the present measure to amend the *Financial Administration Act* to provide for the further deletion from the accounts of certain obligations or debts to Her Majesty or of certain claims by Her Majesty; to provide for appropriation allotments; to authorize in certain circumstances the making of contracts or other arrangements when Parliament is not in session that involve current expenditures; to extend the range of certain payments to discharge certain debts; to authorize the Treasury Board to prescribe regulations governing the custody and control of public property; to provide for the assignment to persons for whose benefit a payment bond is held by Her Majesty in right of Canada or a Crown Corporation, of the rights of Her Majesty or the Corporation to recover under the bond; to provide for the abolition of the office of Comptroller of the Treasury, the transfer of duties, and, for other consequential and related purposes.

• (4:40 p.m.)

For once, it can be understood fairly well by the layman, which is seldom the case. Ordinarily, the legal practitioners manage to prepare documents which we cannot understand and which, quite often, they cannot understand themselves. We sometimes hear of learned lawyers arguing in court among themselves for days and weeks, and even judges in disagreement on legal texts.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I wish to apologize for the inconsistency of my remarks, but that can easily be explained. I want to follow, to a certain extent, the order of the arguments put forward so far. They could not, of course, be perfectly logical, since they came from three different sources, thus reflecting three different points of view.

First, I want to say that more than half the speech made by the member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) was out of order. We did not want to tell him because we believe that such liberties can be taken in parliament. But, I should also be allowed to transgress the rules, in order to answer some of the member's arguments or to complement the information he asked for.

First, I must say that I agree with him on many points. Among other things, he said that the C.B.C. could perhaps discontinue its service in Trois-Rivières, and by the way, I was told about that possibility a few months ago, unofficially however, and for the obvious reason that the C.B.C. loses money every time it—not the C.B.C. I am sorry, but Air Canada. In fact, the C.B.C. is an obsession with me