

*Royal Assent*

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Resuming debate, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow).

**Mr. Orlikow:** Madam Speaker, let me just say that there seems to have been a breakdown in communications among the House Leaders, because this Bill was not on the list of business for today which we received. I did not know about it, as I said, until two o'clock.

In the course of her discussion the Minister said that the jobs of the workers in the industry would be protected and that, as a matter of fact, there might well be more work. We have heard that before, but if there are questions about safety and decisions about scaling down the operations, which there may well be, we can foresee the privately owned industry saying that it cannot afford to scale down its operations because earnings will be lost and so on. What if the federal Government were to close its operations for the sake of safety?

Another problem is that at the present time all uranium ore produced by Eldorado is at the Port Hope refinery, the only uranium refinery in Canada. Any company wanting to ship unprocessed uranium must apply for an individual exemption. It already has a partner, the Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation, which is shipping unprocessed uranium. No doubt pressure will be exerted to continue and to expand this exemption. How can the Government insist that upgrading continue when the company which is expected to uphold this policy no longer supports it? It may not be in its financial interest.

I should like to say something about the supposed competitive aspects of the new merged company. Nothing has been more troubling to the federal Government in recent years in this field than the identification and participation of Canada in a uranium selling cartel from 1972 to 1979. We have been given joint credit for starting the cartel with Australia and other participants including South Africa, France, and the multinational mining company, Rio Tinto Zinc. In just three years the price of uranium yellowcake went from \$7 to \$42 per pound and then collapsed when the cartel disbanded. Needless to say it was not a secret that there was a cartel.

In fact, the Combines Investigation Branch conducted a four-year investigation which ended with a report that was sent to the Department of Justice in 1981, when we had a Liberal Government. Despite demands by Members of Parliament who are now on the government side but were then in the Opposition that the report be made public, it was not done by the former Government. Now that former Members of the Opposition, the Conservative Members, are on the government side, they are adopting the same silent treatment that the former Liberal Government used. This is just another example showing that there is really not much difference between the two sides.

• (1650)

In order to dispel any notion that this merger will make cartelization of the Canadian uranium industry inevitable, we believe that the report which was brought down in 1981 must be made public. Anyone following events in the uranium industry knows that Denison Mines made an offer to purchase Eldorado and was refused and that Denison holds profitable supply contracts with Ontario Hydro and would dearly love to have access to the low-cost uranium available from northern Saskatchewan. There is nothing to prevent Denison Mines from purchasing a significant percentage of the shares of this new company when both companies which are publicly owned are privatized.

Despite the provisions for restricting individual shares in the new company to 25 per cent, it is not hard to see a takeover by like-minded partners once shares are on the public market. The idea that the newly formed corporation will remain a widely held one flies in the face of the takeover activity so obvious on world stock markets in the past few years.

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## THE ROYAL ASSENT

[*English*]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

• (1700)

[*Translation*]

And being returned:

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill C-116, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971—Chapter no. 8.

Bill C-119, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1988—Chapter 9.

Bill C-120, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1988—Chapter 10.