

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, the reason is as I have outlined. Corporations like Air Canada which are in competition with CP and other world-wide airways and CNR which is in competition with CPR—

Mr. Blenkarn: What about Loto Canada?

Mr. Foster: Loto Canada is not operational yet.

Mr. Blenkarn: It used to be.

Mr. Pepin: You killed it.

Mr. Blenkarn: If we killed it, why is it there?

Mr. Foster: For instance, VIA Rail is not in direct competition with other railroad companies in Canada.

Mr. Fennell: What about with buses?

Mr. Foster: Of course it is with buses. However, I have indicated the general rationale. As Hon. Members can appreciate, it is impossible to draw a completely fine line between those which are and those which are not in commercial competition. The general rationale is that those which usually operate without parliamentary appropriations or in competition are in Part II and the other ones, the majority of Crown corporations, are in Schedule C, Part I.

Mr. Blenkarn: Could he explain why Canadair, de Havilland and Eldorado are suddenly missing? Is it because the Government intends to pass the CDIC Bill? If that is the case, why is Teleglobe Canada in Part II? As the Parliamentary Secretary knows, if the CDIC Bill passes, Teleglobe suddenly becomes a subsidiary of CDIC. He knows that CDIC does not own shares in Canadair, de Havilland or Eldorado at the present time, until the CDIC Bill passes. Why do we have such a ball-up? At this stage of the game, because this Bill comes before the CDIC Bill, why are Canadair, de Havilland and Eldorado totally left out?

Mr. Foster: As a matter of interest, I am told that St. Anthony Fisheries is no longer an active Crown corporation. That is one of the difficulties the legislation is trying to overcome. We had the anomaly of the Governor in Council being able to put Crown corporations on a schedule but not being able to remove them from a schedule without an Act of Parliament, so it was not possible to remove a corporation like St. Anthony Fisheries.

With regard to the Hon. Member's question concerning Eldorado, last year the Government published a statement indicating that corporations being held by CDIC were corporations of which the Crown under certain circumstances would consider disposing. However, they are mostly corporations which are in active competition. Eldorado Nuclear is in competition with uranium mining operations in Saskatchewan, with Rio Algom and Denison Mines. The shares of Massey-Ferguson and so on are in competition with those of other farm implement companies. All these companies are held by CDIC.

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Mr. Blenkarn: I know most of the companies in the schedule, but not Mingan Associates, Ltd. I was wondering if the Parliamentary Secretary, whose job it is to understand this Bill, could tell us what is Mingan Associates, Ltd.?

Mr. Foster: If the Hon. Member will hold off for a little while, I will try to determine just exactly what Mingan is. I have not mastered all the names on the list.

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious from the questions I have asked and the questions which Hon. Members on this side will be asking that the Government has given very little thought to Bill C-24. The schedules cannot properly be explained, not only by the Parliamentary Secretary but by the public servant responsible for the Bill, Ed Clark of Paris. We have a Bill which is difficult for us to support. Indeed, it should be difficult for the Government to support. One wonders why the Bill was brought forward in the first place. It is certainly a Bill which accomplishes little in terms of parliamentary control over Crown corporations, indeed government control over Crown corporations.

We have difficulty with the Bill. Until we have received a great deal more explanation from the Government, we will not be very co-operative. We suggest that in committee, if indeed the Bill goes that far, the Bill should be sent for redrafting and be re-presented to Parliament on another appropriate occasion.

• (1520)

The question of Crown corporations is not new in this country. Indeed, this Party has been responsible for creating Crown corporations on a number of occasions. We want to make it very clear that we do not oppose the use of the Crown corporation technique to handle those obligations of Government that cannot be handled appropriately in a country like Canada in any other way than a corporate set-up following the concept of a Crown corporation. Looking over the history, I note that the first Crown corporation in this country was the Royal Canadian Mint, incorporated in 1870, certainly a long time ago, under the auspices of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The major Crown corporation incorporated federally was the Canadian National Railways. Prior to that, Ontario really broke the ice with the creation of Ontario Hydro in 1902. When governments created these Crown corporations in the beginning, they created them because there was no other way to accomplish a national goal. A Crown corporation was created to build a seaway. A Crown corporation was created to look after the sale and dispersal of hydroelectric power. Those Crown corporations were used as a main asset of the falling water in our many rivers.

Crown corporations were used to put together a rail system when our rail system was likely to fall apart through bankruptcy, insolvency and the rest. Because this is a large country, we needed that transportation badly. It was also on that basis that we incorporated Air Canada, or TransCanada Airlines as it was then called. On that basis we brought forward the Canadi-