

we may put into effect the budgetary provisions contained therein.

#### BISHOPS' REPRESENTATIONS

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, in a letter dated November 15 the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said:

—society must not succumb to an ideology of restraint that subordinates human dignity and human needs to abstract economic theory.

They are still awaiting a reply to this letter, by the way. Will the Minister do the honourable thing and, if he is not going to listen to us, at least listen to the special needs of this country at Christmas time?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, naturally these representations, made by a variety of groups, are important. However, we also have an obligation to redirect our resources to those most in need, the low-income earners with children. That is what this legislation is doing and we intend to proceed with it.

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#### CROWN CORPORATIONS

##### SALE OF DE HAVILLAND—STUDIES OF CORPORATION'S ASSETS

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Canadians want information on the de Havilland-Boeing deal made public. They want it tabled in the House of Commons. Our seventh question is this. Why will the Government not table studies done by experts related to de Havilland's assets, studies such as those done by Reed Stenhouse, Burns Fry, and Arthur Andersen?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, for the seventh time to the seventh question, we will make all information available following the due process and procedures of this House. Apart from the full day which the Opposition took up on this topic in the House, there will be further and ample opportunity, certainly during the committee study of the estimates, to go through all the details of the deal. When the deal is concluded all the details will be available in committee.

##### PRIVATIZATION SECRETARIAT STUDY

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, the eighth question, and probably for the eighth time, is this. Why will the Government not table the study done by the privatization secretariat which reviewed the options surrounding the de Havilland deal?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, we as a Government are trying to give you all the information possibly available at this time.

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Table those two agreements, that is all you have to do.

**Mr. de Cotret:** We will certainly not table cabinet documents in this House.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** They are not cabinet documents.

**Mr. de Cotret:** We will offer you all the information to specific questions. Please ask them. You keep hiding under procedural issues. You have not asked a simple question in the last ten days. I will give you numbers.

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[Translation]

#### INDUSTRY

##### INQUIRY IF GAZ MÉTROPOLITAIN MADE OFFER TO PURCHASE GULF REFINERY IN MONTREAL

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

I should think I do not have to explain to anyone in the House to what extent the Gulf refinery is, or rather was vital to the economy of Montreal East.

I would like to know from the Minister whether *Gaz métropolitain*—many such rumours are circulating—did make an offer to purchase the assets of Montreal's Gulf refinery in November, and whether it is true that a more generous offer was made on December 1 to purchase these assets so as to keep the refinery operating and protect the jobs of the 450 workers?

[English]

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member does not seem to be aware of the fact that the Government of Canada does not own the refinery in question and is therefore not in a position to accept offers for the refinery. If a potential buyer of the refinery had an offer to make he would, of course, have made the offer to the owner of the refinery, Gulf. Since, apparently, there was no transaction between any company other than Gulf and Ultramar, we can assume that the offer to purchase accepted by Gulf was the one made by Ultramar.

##### REPORTED OFFERS BY GAZ MÉTROPOLITAIN

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, that is not the question I asked the Minister. I have asked a very simple question. Is it true that *Gaz métropolitain* made an offer in November and another offer in early December to buy the assets of the Gulf refinery in the east end of Montreal? That is the only question. Is it true an offer has been made?