

we do not exercise that control. The fact of the matter is that the Government backbenchers, the NDP and the Official Opposition have no control over them. They are totally unaccountable to us and to Cabinet, and we have to solve that problem. If the Government would accept these amendments, that would happen.

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I will not be speaking very long but I simply wanted to register my views relating to the amendments before us and take issue with the comments made by my friend opposite.

**Mr. Huntington:** I think you have your nerve speaking on it at all. It is under closure.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I get tired, as I am sure most other Members do, of hearing about these immense conspiracies afoot relating to the creation of Crown corporations in order to prevent the Canadian people from learning what is going on. I just cannot imagine that hon. gentleman saying and meaning those comments, especially—

**Mr. Thacker:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the Minister discussing the 54 subsidiary corporations of Petro-Canada and whether or not that does indicate some conspiracy.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order. That is not a point of order.

**Mr. Blais:** Especially when he knows, Mr. Speaker, that, in accordance with the rules under which we operate in this House, all the annual reports of Crown corporations are automatically referred to committee. Those committees can call upon those particular Crown corporations to come forward and be examined by them. Any amounts that are requested by Crown corporations from appropriations or through votes, approved by this Parliament, must all be reviewed by the parliamentary committees which are responsible—

• (1550)

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** That's not true.

**Mr. Blais:**—for those individual companies. We saw, in the Canadair question—

**Mr. Huntington:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the Minister does not want to mislead the House with that last statement. Crown corporations are not coming before parliamentary committees for proper examination. Most of them one cannot even identify.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. That is obviously debate.

**Mr. Blais:** The example in point is Canadair, Mr. Speaker, which was before two committees this morning.

**Mr. Huntington:** Because it just lost \$1.4 billion.

### *Canagrex*

**Mr. Blais:** It was before the Finance Committee and before the Public Accounts Committee at the request of the individual committees themselves and the Chairmen.

**Mr. Taylor:** I rise on a point of order. Mr. Speaker, you ruled the Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) out of order for speaking of this matter. Surely to goodness, Your Honour will not now permit the other side to speak on it.

**Mr. Rossi:** Go back to sleep.

**Mr. Taylor:** It's all right for you, but not for anyone else. Let's have the same rules, eh?

**Mr. Rossi:** Go back to sleep.

**An Hon. Member:** You were snoring for awhile there.

**Mr. Taylor:** Let's have the same rules.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. The Chair feels that the Hon. Member for Bow River is quite right. In fact, the Chair was at the point of rising to invite the Minister to relate his remarks to the amendments before the House. The Chair invites all Hon. Members to do just that. It is a testy time, and the Chair is called upon to rule upon these differences, and especially to apply the rules. Surely, experienced parliamentarians would not want the Chair to rise every two or three minutes to remind them what the rules are all about.

**Mr. Malone:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. What the Minister is doing is giving his view that Crown corporations are accountable. Coming to the point of order, I just—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** I must immediately indicate that a point of order must have something to do with procedure before the House. It should not relate to points of debate. Therefore, if the Hon. Member for Crowfoot has a point of order, I would like to hear it.

**Mr. Huntington:** Get to your point of order.

**Mr. Malone:** I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that it would be quite acceptable for the Minister to continue in that vein as long as he quotes from the most recent Report of the Auditor General of Canada who has very carefully documented that thesis.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, at the outset I want to commend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan).

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Oh, no!

**Mr. Neil:** You did that last time.

**Mr. Blais:** In terms of the Canagrex Bill, you, Mr. Speaker, who have seen the development of this particular Bill, will know that it has had a very long history. There has been a great deal of determination on the part of the Minister of