

the record, particularly coming as it does from a man of the stature of the former Senator, Mr. Eugene Forsey.

I would like to deal with one other point, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid) mentioned the fact that Sir John A. Macdonald brought in the CPR. Sure he did, but that was a different proposition entirely. The CPR had one big job to do. It was to build a rail line across the country in order that B.C. could come into Confederation. Sir John A. Macdonald made good provisions for that to happen. It was not Sir John A. Macdonald who nullified those provisions or who refused to live up to those obligations. For instance, passenger train service was promised forever. The CPR made definite promises. Why is it not accountable to the committees of the House?

What about Canadair? I am all in favour of building airplanes in Canada. I deplore the fact that the once strong shipbuilding industry in the country has gone to wrack and ruin because of the attitude taken by the present Government. Canadair is on the way to wrack and ruin. We can build good planes, but we do not have to okay indebtedness, sloppiness, carelessness, and a lack of accountability. The directors of Canadair and the Senator who is supposed to be responsible for it have all been reappointed in spite of the facts that they are losing money left and right, that they do not report to the House, and that they do not have any accountability at all. I do not call the reappointment of those people accountability.

What did Joel Bell, the new President of the Canada Development Investment Corporation, have to say when he began to look the corporation over? He found that it had 22 vice presidents.

Mr. McKenzie: All Grits.

Mr. Taylor: Yes. He did not say how many directors there were, but he did say that there were so many vice presidents that he got rid of 10 of them right away. For how many years has that situation been going on? The Government does not know what is going on. We are opposed to that type of thing. We are opposed to extravagance when spending the people's money. We are opposed to those who say: "Let the people pay; it does not matter how much is wasted or what is done with it, because the people will pay".

Joel Bell then found that Canadair had so many employees that he was able to discharge 338 of them. How long were those 338 employees sitting on cushions, or on whatever else they sit over there, doing nothing? For how long were they being paid with the people's money only for their good looks while a million people were unemployed and living under the poverty line?

We are opposed to those kinds of things, Mr. Speaker. We want accountability for Crown corporations. We want the people to know what the Crown corporations are doing, and we want full value for every dollar spent.

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I suspect that this will probably be the shortest speech on record, but I do want to be on that record as supporting the

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six-months' hoist amendment that has been proposed by this side. I think that that is a very constructive idea.

Normally when a six-months' hoist is moved, it is moved for dilatory purposes. However, under the set of circumstances with which we are faced today, I think that the idea of allowing this matter to stand over for six months—by which time we will in all probability have a new Progressive Conservative Government—will enable us and the people of Canada to bring to bear on this question our views and our expertise.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order. It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

• (1700)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Shall all orders and items preceding No. 101 stand by unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Stand.

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[English]

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ESTIMATES

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South) moved:

That a Standing Committee of this House be appointed and that it be empowered to review annually, and from time to time as may be necessary, the total amount of any Estimates or Supplementary Estimates to determine whether the Estimates or Supplementary Estimates in their totality exceed the ability of the country to pay the moneys required and to prioritize such estimates of expenditure of the government to ensure that the moneys appropriated by Parliament for operations are appropriated to those needs of the people of Canada in the order of their priority.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the whole question of coming to grips with the budgetary deficit of this country has occupied not only Members of Parliament from this side, but Members of Parliament from the other side. Indeed, the leading contender for the leadership of the Party forming the present Government has said that there must be some system of prioritizing the expenditures of the country.

The problem is this: Our present system of clearing Estimates is that the Estimates are presented in the blue book and are sent to the standing committees of the House. At the present time, Members who sit on the Standing Committee on