

[Translation]

### PENITENTIARIES

INQUIRY WHETHER MEETING WAS PLANNED WITH VARIOUS PUBLIC SERVANTS INVOLVED WITH PORT-CARTIER PROJECT

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I would like to ask him whether on or about September 29, he called a meeting with the various officials involved in the Port-Cartier matter to sort out the contradictory statements made by the Prime Minister and the various Ministers involved.

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that question at the present time. I will take a look and advise the Hon. Member.

**An Hon. Member:** You weren't listening.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Oh, yes, I was listening.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** I am sure the Deputy Prime Minister's memory is good enough for him to recall whether he invited seven or eight people to his office to discuss the Port-Cartier issue. I am not asking for the date and the time, I am asking whether it is true he had to call a meeting to sort out all the problems the Prime Minister has been causing by trying to "rearrange" the truth.

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to what problem the Hon. Member is referring. I have a lot of meetings in my office. A lot of people come in. I would even invite the Hon. Member to drop in and see me whenever he feels so inclined.

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### CORPORATE AFFAIRS

FEDERAL COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION COMPANY'S INVESTMENT IN PRINCE RUPERT PROJECT

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Four years ago the Trudeau Government signed a deal with Federal Commerce & Navigation in Montreal, allowing it to turn Prince Rupert coal into Montreal gold. Will the Deputy Prime Minister immediately appoint the Auditor General and the commercial crime squad of the RCMP to investigate how and why a \$23 million loan for coal can be turned into \$1 billion tax free for that Montreal consortium?

### Oral Questions

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is somewhat confused. This is a little complicated, but in 1981 the then Liberal administration entered into a contract with FedNav regarding the Ridley Island coal terminal. They were each to put in \$23 million in equity. One side has a call option, that is the Canada Ports Corporation, which it can exercise at any time. The other side, FedNav, has a put option which it can exercise in 1991. The \$1 billion figure is purely a figment of the multiplication tables of the hon. gentleman.

There are a whole series of "ifs" before \$1 billion would have to be paid if the Government wished to exercise its call option. That would be in the year 2001, if the Government then wanted to exercise it, and only a Liberal Government would ever think of exercising such an option, and they won't be there even in 2001.

### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** My supplementary question is again directed to the Deputy Prime Minister because I want to know from the Deputy Prime Minister, who knows about this deal, why he will not put up \$40 million now to save the Canadian taxpayers \$950 million? Why will you not do it? Is there some kind of secret political slush fund?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. All Hon. Members know that other Hon. Members in the Chamber must be addressed through the Chair. I would hope that I would not have to bring this to the attention of the Hon. Member for Skeena again, who knows the rules as well as any of us in this House.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman from Skeena has said he is neither an accountant nor a detective, and that is certainly obvious.

• (1440)

**Mr. Fulton:** At least I'm not a crook.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Says who?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know to whom the hon. gentleman is referring as a crook, but I would like to have him explicate those remarks and explain to whom he is referring.

To get back to my explanation—

**Mr. Gauthier:** Your explication!

**Mr. Crosbie:** This is complicated, Mr. Speaker, and Members opposite may not be able to understand it. If the Government exercised its call option this year, it would cost around \$49 million in present dollars. If it waits to see whether FedNav wants to exercise its put option in 1991, it would cost us \$30 million in 1986 dollars, or around \$50 million in 1991