

which limits debate to seven hours. That is some accountability! Where is the accountability of Canadair, de Havilland and Canada Post? Again, Mr. Speaker, these are Crown corpses.

The need for true accountability to this institution, which is not provided by this Bill, has been mentioned repeatedly by my colleagues throughout this debate and it cannot be stressed enough. Nowhere is the need more evident than in another Bill which is currently before the House. Bill C-32, to establish a peace institute, is an attempt to create a further Crown corporation which will be under the control of Cabinet. Cabinet will have the power to appoint directors and members, to set their fees, to decide where the institute will be located and to dictate what kind of research shall be carried out. Parliament will not have a say in these decisions. Of course, this is all in the spirit of the true Liberal tradition.

● (1240)

Bill C-32 is not off to a good start. Clause 4(c) states that the institute's purpose is to "encourage public discussion of international peace and security issues". The most important debate should take place right here, yet the Government is anxious to push the Bill through. Why the rush? Let me pledge here and now my personal and my Party's total support to peace. Who in their right mind would oppose peace? However, what we do oppose is an attempt to increase Cabinet control over yet another Crown corporation. Both Bill C-24 and C-32 do exactly that.

How can we trust a Cabinet that includes the likes of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan)? In a recent interview with the "Trudeau Star" he said that "I am probably responsible for more free trade than anybody". This is the same Minister that brought us Canagrex, a Crown corporation that was set up to bring about state control of the agricultural industry and to buy and sell on the open market. It can be the owner of property, a right that is denied us in the Constitution. He added that he would like to see all the big Crown corporations run in the same way as Canagrex. Heaven help the farmers! Heaven help the rest of the economy, and with the latest Crown corporation, heaven help peace.

Let me illustrate for a moment the Liberal Government's commitment to accountability in Parliament. If ever a Member could rise in his place in righteous indignation, this is the time. Again the Government has stifled debate by the use of closure on something as important as Crown corporations. Billions of taxpayers' money has gone down the drain as a result of that lack of accountability.

From 1980 to the middle of last year, the Government has used or threatened closure and time allocation 22 times. This is totally in keeping with a government that rules by Order in Council, and as mentioned by one of my colleagues, rules by fiat. Between 1969 and 1982, the Prime Minister's Government passed 39,048 Orders in Council, an average of 3,245 a year. Some accountability! In the years 1977, 1978, 1980 and 1981, there were 15,002 Orders in Council passed, an average of 3,750 a year. The Bill before us today will uphold that tradition, the corroding of free speech.

Financial Administration Act

With increased accountability to Parliament, we would perhaps see less of the types of activities pointed out last week by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Pembina (Mr. Elzinga). According to documents in his possession, Mr. Hopper of Petro-Canada and James Scurr, a senior vice-president, purchased used furniture and appliances from the Crown corporation at bargain basement prices. With increased accountability we would not see executives who mismanage ailing aircraft companies receiving substantial bonuses while two million Canadians are looking for work. Do we even know how much they are paid? As pointed out by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan), we have no idea how much they make, except too much. Nor would we have an individual who has never been able to get elected placed in charge of a multi-billion dollar empire of state-owned companies. He is the person whose name is synonymous with a pint-sized automobile.

According to an article in *The Citizen* on May 18, Elizabeth Charlebois, head of the International Development Research Centre, forged her documents and will not even be fired, just asked to let go. Now they will not divulge her salary, according to Mr. Head, another Trudeau protégé. They are concerned about whether she will receive her severance pay, not about what happened to Canada and what is happening to CDIC.

I have many more comments to make about the closure aspect of this Bill and about Crown corporations in general. However, let me say in conclusion that I urge all Members to defeat this closure motion and the Crown corporations Bill. Let us restore accountability to this institution.

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Mr. Speaker, I wish to spend a few moments talking about four or five Crown corporations. Historically, Crown corporations have contributed a great deal to Canada and will continue to do so in the future.

Let me deal with Air Canada first. When I was preparing to come to work this morning I was reminded of the seat sale which Air Canada had last fall. Its seat sale provided many low prices which gave some Canadians the opportunity to travel at less cost. However, this year it has a \$19 billion deficit which will somehow have to be made up. Inevitably the responsibility for that deficit falls on the taxpayer. As one late Member of Parliament said, Mr. Speaker, there is only one taxpayer, you and I.

The current debt faced by Air Canada as a result of management programs that were made in direct competition with other private enterprise airlines is now the responsibility of the taxpayer. It now appears that those management decisions to provide low-cost air fares is very questionable in terms of the net effect on the numbers travelling on the airline and the effect on other competitors in the air passenger travel service.

The second corporation I would like to mention is Petro-Canada. Petro-Canada has had many significant achievements in the energy sector since it became a Crown corporation. I do not want to talk about the obvious difficulties it has experienced with respect to gas stations or about its acquisi-