

*Financial Administration Act*

done a good job of attracting people. I suggest that if the government were serious about solving our financial crisis it would instigate an immigration policy which would open up this country and allow many more people to come in.

**Mr. Badanai:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Whicher:** We should become more like the United States and admit people from all parts of the world. It is our people who will create wealth and help to solve our financial difficulties. The present situation is not the government's fault and I do not criticize the minister who has brought forward this bill. He is doing the best he can to make sure this house controls government expenditures.

• (5:20 p.m.)

I appreciate what hon. members have said about the necessity of having the Auditor General and his staff audit the books of Crown corporations. The Auditor General is the servant of the House of Commons. By the same token, the C.B.C. Canadian National Railways and Air Canada should also be subservient to the house. The books of those Crown corporations ought to be audited by our servant, the Auditor General, and not by some large firm in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver. They should be accountable to this house through some minister. We should be able to look over their estimates. When they are not accountable as various government departments are, they have a tendency to go away out in left field so far as expenditures are concerned. Too much money is being spent without enough thought being given. In comparison to our neighbours to the south, we are taxing ourselves right out of business. I say to the minister, all hon. members of this house and particularly members of my own party, the people of Canada last June 25 voted for a breath of fresh air. The people wanted a complete and absolute reorganization, not only of our taxing system but the spending of public money in Canada. This is our duty to the people of Canada.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** I understand there is some desire to hurry along, Mr. Speaker, but I would ask the minister when he replies to take a moment to deal specifically with the matter of the *Bonaventure* and the new tendering system which was introduced. The minister, acting in another capacity, announced in this house

with a great deal of pride and satisfaction that he was introducing a new method of tendering which would save the country thousands and even millions of dollars on the *Bonaventure*. We all know the fiasco which resulted and I do not expect the minister to go into the details which are being considered in the other place. I think the minister should tell us what went wrong with his plan to take the *Bonaventure* from the allocated yards in the maritimes to the St. Lawrence which resulted in the loss of millions of dollars.

I would like to know also whether these amendments will ensure that a crazy minister will not get the opportunity to do this again.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

**Mr. Bell:** Surely, the minister has been challenged with regard to the *Bonaventure*. Would this not be an opportunity for the minister to simply say that he did not mean to do this?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** I must advise the house if the minister speaks now he will close the debate.

**Mr. Drury:** I had not proposed to make a concluding statement, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that, with one exception the suggestions put forward during the course of this debate will be discussed in the committee at that time, there will be an opportunity to examine these suggestions in greater detail. I must, however, make reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell). The hon. member seems to be confused as to what this debate is about, as well as in his understanding of the proceedings of the Committee on Public Accounts. The hon. member has challenged me to deny that a crazy minister has ill performed his job. I accept that challenge and deny this. I would exhort him to inquire into the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee and follow them a little more closely. He will discover that the repairs to the *Bonaventure* were initiated prior to the introduction of the bidding processes in relation to so-called unsings, I will not be more technical than that. I look forward to further examination of this bill in committee.

I move, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the house be now adjourned.