

he will be very happy, I am sure, to provide all the information to the Hon. Member.

Mr. Nielsen: More cover up.

PAYMENT OF LIABILITIES

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. The President of the Treasury Board will know that his colleague, Senator Austin, has disclosed to the press and to others that there is no way that Canadair can ever pay back to its creditors the \$1 billion or so which it owes, that that matter will have to be written off. I was wondering if the President of the Treasury Board will advise this House if he will be issuing supplementary estimates allowing the Government of Canada to take over, as a direct debt of Canada, the liabilities of Canadair because, as those liabilities will never be paid by Canadair, they have to be borne by the people of Canada? We have guaranteed the debt. Therefore, will he be issuing a supplementary estimate to allow that to be handled directly so that statements for Canada will be properly representative?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, the matter which my hon. friend is raising is one which will involve a decision of Cabinet, to be taken on the advice of the Minister of Finance. When a decision in this area is taken, I will be happy to report to the Hon. Member.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): The President of the Treasury Board will know that in November, 1981, there was a special investigative statement brought to Cabinet indicating the financial position of Canadair at that time. The President of the Treasury Board will also know that there was a further inquiry and study presented to the Cabinet in October, 1982. That statement was used to ask for the \$200 million which was supplied last year. Will the President of the Treasury Board, now that the Government has decided to come clean to some extent with Canadair, deliver an exposé to this House and make available to this House those investigative documents in connection with Canadair so that we can know how we, as a people, lost all that money?

• (1420)

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I will have to consult my colleagues on whether or not documents of this sort prepared for Cabinet can properly be released. But I am aware that the Minister responsible for the Canada Development Investment Corporation has today tabled a very extensive report on the operations of Canadair, both now and in the past, and with regard to its future prospects, before the Public Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee. I would think that report, plus the answers by the Minister and his advisers in Committee, will cover the kind of ground in which my hon. friend is interested.

Oral Questions

CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

REQUEST THAT SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General concerning the new Security Services Bill which has been criticized by lawyers and civil liberties groups all across the country, and which the Minister himself has acknowledged is flawed.

Considering that the Minister said yesterday he might be prepared to have the subject matter referred to a special committee of the House for study and report, has he thought more about this in the past 24 hours, and is he now prepared to say that is a course of action the Government is prepared to pursue?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, the suggestion that the Bill is flawed is one which I reject. I am certainly willing to consider amendments to the Bill, but I am also willing, and I think I am in a position, to defend all of the provisions of the Bill, so it is not a matter of my agreeing that the Bill is flawed. It is debatable, and the purpose of Parliament is to debate Bills. I have acknowledged that I am certainly prepared to see it debated and to accept constructive amendments.

On the question of the reference of the Bill to a committee, I have spoken to my House leader. As the Hon. Member knows, it is a matter for House leaders to decide. I have expressed considerable enthusiasm for that, provided that a number of conditions can be met concerning the amount of time it would take, and when it would begin and end. I think the proper way for that matter to be handled is for House leaders to raise it, having the Hon. Member's support for the idea, my support, and the support of Members who spoke yesterday on behalf of the Conservatives.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, let me begin by saying that I agree entirely with this kind of procedure. Perhaps what we have agreed on in principle on the floor of the House should be worked out by the House leaders. But I would like to clarify exactly what the Minister has in mind when he talks about a reference to committee. Does he mean that the committee, as was suggested here in the House yesterday, would simply look at the subject matter, an idea that we in this Party are prepared to support entirely, or is he saying that one of his preconditions is that the House has to agree to second reading of the Bill which is before it now?

Mr. Nielsen: No, of course not.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): I am certainly glad to provide that clarification. I would like second reading of the Bill, but I am not insisting on it.

Mr. Lewis: Just as well.