

Inquiries of the Ministry

in respect of Bill C-4, to amend the Corporations Act, which were distributed exclusively to members of the Liberal caucus.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I would have to examine that situation, Mr. Speaker. My officials did prepare a group of papers for delivery to the provincial officers who are meeting here in Ottawa today and who met here yesterday on Bill C-4. In respect of what other information was available, I would have to check that.

Mr. Bell: Would the minister check to see whether any members of the Liberal caucus received copies which could have been made available to all members of the House of Commons.

Mr. Basford: It would be delightful if the hon. member would cross the floor to keep informed. We in this government endeavour to keep members of our caucus informed of what the government is doing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret very much to advise hon. members that the time for the question period expired some minutes ago. I must apologize to hon. members who were not recognized today.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order or a point of privilege whichever Your Honour wishes to call it. I respectfully suggest that the statement of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was unworthy. It is one thing, Mr. Speaker, for the apparatus of any party in this House to supply members of the caucus with information to reduce the ignorance on that side of the House. But it is an entirely different thing for public officials, paid from the public treasury, to be used to service the members of only one party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hees: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings rising on a further point of order?

Mr. Hees: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was interrupted earlier. I should like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Orders of the day.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

[Mr. Bell.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member for Waterloo is rising on a point of order I trust it will be a legitimate point of order.

Mr. Saltsman: I asked a question of considerable importance to my area before the question period had expired. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether you would permit the minister to reply to that question.

Mr. Speaker: There would have to be unanimous agreement because the question period expired five minutes ago. I suggest to hon. members that I tried to exercise an extraordinary degree of fairness in allowing questions beyond the time allotted so as to give hon. members the opportunity to ask their questions. Since the question period expired five minutes ago, I believe we should go on to the business before the House.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS,
AIR CANADA****PROVISION FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES,
GUARANTEEING OF SECURITIES**

The House resumed from Wednesday, December 3, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray that Bill C-7, to authorize the provision of moneys to meet certain capital expenditures of the Canadian National Railways system and Air Canada for the period from the 1st January, 1969, to the 30th day of June, 1970, and to authorize the guarantee by Her Majesty of certain securities to be issued by the Canadian National Railways Company and certain debentures to be issued by Air Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Peters (page 1578).

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, just before the adjournment last night I presented a motion for a six month delay of this bill. I did so for a very specific reason. I am confused, as I am sure most Canadians are by the financing of the Canadian National Railways. Surely this is also true of some members of the cabinet and of other government members because, on looking at the financial statement of the CNR we find that their debt is just as great today as the day that railway was formed. We are paying only a token interest on the debt. Year after