

WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT

CALL FOR MEETING OF WESTERN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, surely by this time the Government must realize that western Canada does not want Bill C-155 in its present form. My idea of a democratic Government is that it endeavours to reflect the thinking of the people in its legislation and in its administration. If the Government would do that instead of telling the people what is good for them, as Bill C-155 does, it would call a meeting of the western Members of Parliament who represent the people of the West, and who are accountable to the people who elect them, and ascertain what has to be done to remove the major objections to the Bill.

For instance, why would the Government of Canada want to destroy the cattle and hog industry of western Canada? What changes to the Bill would have to be made to permit these industries to expand and reach their potential? Industrial development and manufacturing are required in the West. We have many raw materials and the expertise; why can we not invest and build up this industry? Surely in a country as large and as diverse as Canada there is room for development in both the West and the East. Let us start talking reasonably to each other with a view to permitting and encouraging the people of all parts of this great country to grow and play their part in building a greater Canada.

Forcing Bill C-155 on western Canada may appease the appetites for power but will, in the long run, be another nail in the coffin of Confederation. I love Canada and I do not want to see it broken up. Why can we not build this nation together, with all the regions of Canada playing their part?

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANAGREX—OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF CORPORATION

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Madam Speaker, the increasing involvement of the Liberal Government in the economy through public enterprise has been questioned by many concerned Canadians as they have watched through the last decade the increased deployment of Crown corporations and the tremendous waste of public funds which followed. Yet the Liberal Government attempts to get away with another unwarranted intervention, this time in agriculture. The new state agency, Canagrex, will emerge as the Petro-Canada of the agriculture industry, with its share of debts, mismanagement, and lost opportunity for private enterprise. Again, the Government has created a public leech which is stealing business from the private sector.

The strong opposition to Canagrex voiced by numerous organizations across the country indicates our society's current mistrust of state management. Canadians are not willing to accept direct Government intervention in agriculture. The example of other bankrupt Crown corporations taught them a

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hard lesson. They treasure their economic and personal freedoms too much to let them perish.

• (1115)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANADAIR—REQUEST THAT TASK FORCE REPORT BE RELEASED

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. He is aware that the Auditor General announced yesterday in committee hearings that there was a special task force report produced in early 1982 resulting from the 1981 financial statement of Canadair. Upon investigation into the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce he uncovered a need to see this report. The Minister's predecessor agreed to allow him to see the report so that he could complete his statement in his report. Therefore, I ask the Minister to release this report which has caused this country great concern, and which will result in a write-down in excess of \$2 billion on Canadair's operations.

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, the report was referred to by the Auditor General in his 1982 report to Parliament. The report in question, was prepared for Ministers and therefore falls within the rules applying to Cabinet documents. In spite of that, my predecessor, in an effort to be helpful, did make it available to the Auditor General on a personal basis and, as far as I know, he is satisfied with the basis on which he received it.

REQUEST THAT AUDITOR GENERAL INVESTIGATE REPORT

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, the Auditor General is responsible to Members of Parliament. He was told this report was for his eyes only. In a previous incident, referred to as "Coalgate", the Minister of Energy provided documents which assisted us in finding out what happened. In view of the depth of the debt of Canadair, I insist that this Minister at least permit the Auditor General's Department to do thorough research into this report because the Auditor General said in his statement that the company over-emphasized the sales potential. Will the Minister agree to that?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, with respect to the premise of the my hon. friend's question, I do not think the material he referred to involved Cabinet documents. I again repeat that the report in question is a Cabinet document and the principles applying to Cabinet documents are the same now as under previous administrations.

In spite of the status of that document, in an effort to be of assistance to the Auditor General my predecessor made it available to him on a personal basis. Obviously the Auditor