

*Oral Questions*

gration. In light of the cost—some \$60 million—to the taxpayers of Canada for government patronage, which is about one-half the cost of the total program announced by the minister this week with respect to employment, has the minister discussed with his colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, whether this money would be better applied to employment programs for the people of this country, particularly women and native people? Is he going to allow himself and the cabinet to be pushed around by the Pinocchio of Canadian politics?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, not only have I discussed this matter with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; I have also had the benefit of constant consultation with my seatmate, the Minister of State for Mines, who has assured me on many occasions that the move of Eldorado mines is one of the long-term employment developments that will assist northern Ontario, which is one of the regions needing a high degree of employment.

Furthermore, one of the conditions attached to the move was that there be a major program of employment of native people in northern Ontario. We can thank the Minister of State for Mines for that particular intervention. I think we will see very productive results in a very short period of time.

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**CROWN CORPORATIONS****ELDORADO NUCLEAR—COMPENSATION FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND**

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board who has been given responsibility by the Prime Minister for devising a Crown corporations' policy for this government.

The President of the Treasury Board will know that Bill C-27 introduced by the previous government provided for corporations which had been issued directives by the federal cabinet to be able to apply for compensation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the cost of those directives. Will the minister indicate whether that continues to be the policy of the Government of Canada, and will Eldorado Nuclear be able to apply to the Government of Canada to receive compensation for this patronage decision that was made by the federal government?

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform the hon. member that the whole area of Crown corporations' legislation is under review.

**An hon. Member:** No kidding!

**Mr. Johnston:** The hon. gentleman laughs. There is good reason for it to be under review, as the hon. member knows. Many suggestions and modifications have been put forward with respect to Bill C-27. I hope to bring forward a discussion

paper and, hopefully, some legislation will be brought down in the relatively near future.

**Mr. Beatty:** Madam Speaker, my question is a very straightforward one. Will Eldorado Nuclear be able to apply to the Government of Canada for compensation as a result of this patronage directive which was issued to it by the Government of Canada? Does the government intend to incorporate in any subsequent legislation respecting Crown corporations the right of Crown corporations to apply for that sort of compensation?

**Mr. Johnston:** Madam Speaker, it seems that my answer was very straightforward.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Johnston:** The provision to which the hon. member is referring is not in the law at the present time. Obviously, that bill and its provisions are being reconsidered. Accordingly, when the bill is brought down, whatever Crown corporations are subject to directives from the government will have the opportunity of taking advantage of whatever provisions the bill contains.

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**INDUSTRY****UNITED STATES REGULATIONS ON URBAN TRANSIT SYSTEMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The minister is no doubt aware that there are regulations in the United States which effectively exclude exporters of urban transit facilities from access to that market.

Is the minister aware, specifically, that Flyer Coach of Manitoba, a successful corporation, is now considering establishing a plant in North Dakota, thus moving Canadian jobs south, because of these U.S. regulations? If so, what is he doing to get them changed?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, we have been working actively with American officials to reach agreement to change these regulations. In view of the case brought to my attention by my hon. friend, I will instruct our officials to expedite these discussions.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, this problem has existed for many years, before the Liberals were in power. We have successful urban transit companies such as Bombardier, Hawker Siddeley, as well as Flyer Coach. We have a multibillion dollar trade deficit in manufactured goods every year with the United States. When will the government be able to announce to Canada that we are to have fair access to the United States for manufactured goods, just as they have to our markets?