

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I am surprised at the Hon. Member's naivete, because he himself, as President of the Treasury Board in a previous Government that did not remain in power very long, received reports on the situation at Canadair, and it was his responsibility to take action, but he did not. We, on the other hand, have taken action.

[English]

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, once again the Minister is quite wrong. We did take action; we started to privatize it.

## CORPORATION'S LOSSES—REQUEST THAT MINISTER LAUNCH INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Let me put my second question to the same Minister, Madam Speaker. In view of the fact that the write-off of \$1.4 billion is equal to the total loss last year of Massey-Ferguson, NuWest Group, Inco, CNR and Sidbec, all together, would the Minister at least arrange for a proper inquiry into what happened leading up to this type of write-off, bearing in mind that we have been sand bagged in the Finance Committee and are getting nowhere in other Committees? The public should know why the Government has acted in such an incompetent way.

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member started by saying that he had come up with an answer to the Canadair problem when he was President of Treasury Board, and I realize that his incompetence and that of his Government were such that he was unable to implement his solution. We have also started to deal with the situation, by making a thorough analysis of Canadair's commercial viability, with a view to restoring its commercial position. A few days ago, the Minister responsible in the other place tabled a full report on the financial situation of Canadair. The authorities of the new corporation responsible for monitoring and providing strict management principles for Canadair and other corporations, will be tabling a commercial development plan for Canadair, and Hon. Members as well as the Canadian public have had a unique opportunity in recent weeks to obtain information on the past and future positions of these corporations.

[English]

## INQUIRY RESPECTING ROLE OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister who indicates that the Government has been taking action. If that is so, would he indicate to the House why it has allowed the Vice-Chairman, Jean-Pierre Goyer, to continue—he is known to many in this House and especially to many in the Prime Minister's office? Would the Minister answer that very simply question? Will the government indeed accept the responsibility

for this debacle at Canadair, and not pass it on to management as it seems to want to do?

● (1420)

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows perfectly well how Canadair operates. It is a Government-owned corporation which operates on a commercial basis. Our diagnosis was that there were a number of problems that required a more sustained presence of the principal shareholder. This was achieved by creating a new corporation whose objective will be to provide for a regular and constant presence of the Government as shareholder, to safeguard the interests of all Canadians and to provide for stricter management of Canadair as well as more realistic market expectations.

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[English]

## INDUSTRY

## NABU CORPORATION'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAY-OFFS

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. I should note, Madam Speaker, that the Government blames the management of Canadair. The Government was the management of Canadair.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss Carney:** After sinking \$125 million of taxpayers' money into Consolidated Computers Incorporated, the Government announced in November, 1981, that it was selling the company to Nabu Manufacturing Corporation for \$100,000 cash. At the time the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce justified the bargain price by saying Nabu had committed to keep the company in operation for at least two years, to provide sufficient working capital to achieve that—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. Order, please. I must again remind the Hon. Member that questions should be short. I could be even stricter and not allow the Hon. Member to read the question. One could use notes but one should not be reading out questions. If they are not read, I am sure they would be shorter.

**Miss Carney:** This week Nabu announced it was laying off over 100 of its Canadian manufacturing employees. Can the Minister tell the House if Nabu has broken a commitment to preserve Canadian manufacturing employees jobs, or did the Government exaggerate the benefits of the deal in order to justify its expenditure and the \$125 million loss of the taxpayers' money?

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, I do not believe that the actual wording of