

Oral Questions

country have their programs cut so that the Government can come up with \$1 billion to bail out the banks.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the premise of the question is totally false. I have never admitted, confirmed, nor said any word about the things contained in the premise of the question. I am saying that the Government is committed to good management, to maintaining expenditures within reasonable levels, and to reducing the deficit to make the country economically prosperous once again, something which was not done by the Party opposite when it was in Government for years and years before us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

SALE OF DE HAVILLAND—FUTURE UPGRADING OF PLANT

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the President of the Treasury Board on the de Havilland-Boeing deal. This is our fifth question. How much has Boeing committed to the up-grading of the de Havilland plant? Why did the Government inflate its percentage of defence industry productivity program support to 50 per cent to help finance it?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member well knows, as I have stated in the House time and time again, that the de Havilland Corporation, under Boeing ownership, will be allowed access to every existing Government program. It has committed to improving the Downsview plant in terms of its existing capacity. It has committed to making significant new investment in the productive capacity of de Havilland Canada. As such, it will be eligible for the Defence Industry Productivity Program which, as the Hon. Member surely knows, makes advances which are repayable to the Crown over a period of time.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, our sixth question is as follows. Why did the Government give Boeing access to financial information that it denied to Rimgate Holdings of British Columbia?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I would first like to clarify a point. We have talked time and time again in the House about Rimgate from British Columbia or where have you. The major shareholder of Rimgate is a company from Europe called Fokker, which is a direct competitor of de Havilland because it produces a product similar to the Dash-8, a 50-seater STOL aircraft. Certain information on the competitive elements was withheld, but no financial information was withheld. I would just say that if Rimgate wants its offer to be discussed publicly, since I cannot

do it, let it make it public and then let the people of Canada compare it to the Boeing offer and see which is the best.

• (1140)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HATE LITERATURE

POSTED IN MOSCOW FOR DELIVERY IN CANADA

Mr. Terry Clifford (London-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Canadians of Ukrainian descent are being bombarded with unsolicited hate literature which is postmarked Moscow. Is the Minister aware that this literature is circulating in Canada and, if so, is he prepared to take action to stop this propaganda from filling Canadian homes?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I can assure my colleague that I share his concern that this type of material appears to be circulating. I can give him my undertaking that I will immediately direct our officials to check the situation and see whether there are prohibitory tariff items which will allow us to check this material, and report back to him.

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[*Translation*]

SOCIAL SECURITY

REQUEST THAT BILL C-70 BE WITHDRAWN

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare but, in his absence, I will direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Government has imposed closure on several Bills, the most unfair being Bill C-70 to de-index family allowances.

The Opposition has been urging the Government to withdraw the Bill. Women, mothers, unions, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops just wrote to the Minister and asked him to drop the Bill. When will the Government do the honourable thing and withdraw this Bill?

[*English*]

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in the unavoidable absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare who is away on Government business this morning, may I say that we have had a very substantial opportunity to debate this legislation. Indeed, the study time in committee was extended by its membership in order to accommodate the representations that were made. So I say to the Hon. Member that we have listened to the representations and made a decision to proceed with this legislation in order that