

Supply

not want to say that it is going on because it is afraid that it will get in trouble with another group. It is nice to be in the Liberal Party. We do not have any such problems here.

Mr. McDermid: What is the policy?

Mr. Milliken: The policy is quite clear. Before I come to that, however, I have a few questions that I would like to put to the Government.

There is altogether too much secrecy surrounding this whole arrangement. That is part of the reason for the problem in this House. That is the reason for the disagreement in part. My constituents in their efforts to determine the facts have been stonewalled by the Government. They are told that everything is secret in so far as Baxter Publications is concerned. That is not fair. It is a trade exhibition. As a Member of Parliament I have received an invitation. My constituents are urging me to go to see what is going on. I feel that that is fine.

As far as the defence establishment in Canada is concerned, I recognize the importance of the exhibition. I suspect it is a valuable exhibition for persons involved in national defence in our country. To that extent I say to the Minister I agree with what the Minister has said about ARMX—from that sole perspective.

Having said that, it seems to me the Government has other responsibilities. Here in the letter from ARMX is a statement that External Affairs is controlling the guest list. It controls the foreign countries invited to this thing. Is it true or not? Why is not the Secretary of State here telling us the facts as to whether or not his Department controls that guest list? I think that is very important. The public is entitled to know who will be there.

The Government says: "We cannot tell you because it is not our show. It is private". Baxter says: "It is privileged information. It is not our business to release it". Everybody is covering up as best they can.

As a Member of Parliament, and particularly a new one, I am not able to recognize military people from around the world at this exhibition. I have never been involved in the military. I do not know who will be there. I would not recognize the Chief of Staff of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Nicaragua, Chile, or any place. I do not know what they look like. How am I

supposed to know who is there? I cannot tell. That is what is going on here. There is a real cover-up operation in respect of this show. It seems to me that the Government has an obligation, if it has not got the list itself. I suspect it has. I suspect it helped prepare the list, to get it and bring it into the House and say: "These are the people being invited". There is no secret about this. Why are we not making it public? Why do Canadians have to be kept in the dark about what is going on right here in their nation's capital? I suggest there is no need for it in this case.

With respect to the list of exhibitors, we were told that the list of exhibitors was not public. I have seen a list of the Canadian companies exhibiting. The question is: Are there any others? We have no information on that.

Mr. Boudria: What is so secret about that?

Mr. Milliken: Why should that be kept quiet? The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) is perfectly correct in raising this issue. There is no secret in that.

We have raised the criticism, and I think it is legitimate, that the exhibition may be used for the purpose of arranging sales to Third World countries or countries which are involved in mistreating their nationals. It seems to me that the Minister of State for Privatization has been telling us that the Government has a list. He says that the Government has a list of countries to whom it bans exports.

However, he will not tell us who is on the list. This has been government policy for some time. I do not understand why. Why would the list not be made public? If the Government has made a determination that Government *a*, *b*, or *x* should not receive arms from Canada, why would we not publicize that fact? Why is it kept secret? Yet that is the position that the Government is in.

I see that my time is running out, Mr. Speaker. In our Party we are in favour of publicity in relation to this event. We believe the veils of secrecy should be lifted and the facts disclosed.

Second, we support the event in so far as it is a genuine show for military purposes for Canada's defence establishment.