

Campbell to carry the can. What the House of Commons and the people of Canada have a right to know is what the minister did personally to monitor this procedure which he knew had caused serious problems and serious losses to Canada before. We do not want to hear about Mr. Campbell and other people. We want to hear about the man who is responsible to this parliament for reporting for that agency. We want to know what he did.

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

**Mr. Paproski:** Either say something or resign.

#### REASON FOR PROMOTION OF MR. CAMPBELL

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, the minister has said that his sole responsibility in the \$130 million loss was to appoint Mr. Ross Campbell to renegotiate a contract. Mr. Campbell's testimony to the Public Accounts Committee on January 25 of this year was that he had assured the Argentinian government that we, that is Mr. Campbell and Mr. Foster, acting together have the full authority of the Canadian government to proceed with the renegotiation, to sign it and to execute its terms. I wish to ask the minister why Mr. Campbell was promoted to the position of chairman and president of AECL when Dr. Foster was dismissed.

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of points I would like to make to the hon. lady. First, in her preamble, I think she misled the House. On the second point, it should be obvious to her that when a chief executive officer is removed from his duties, one has to appoint somebody else in his stead until a new chief executive officer can be located. Mr. Campbell has undertaken, on the basis of a recommendation of the board of directors to me, to take over on a temporary basis the chief executive officer's job in addition to his job as chairman of the board. A search committee has already been set up, chaired by one of the members of the board. I hope it will be successful in finding a man with the kind of breadth of managerial experience that is needed—I would expect somebody in the private sector at the present time—to take over that job at the earliest possible opportunity.

● (1120)

#### ARGENTINIAN CONTRACT—POSSIBILITY OF SANCTIONS AGAINST MR. CAMPBELL IN VIEW OF LOSS ON RENEGOTIATED CONTRACT

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Ross Campbell has been Chairman of the Board of the AECL for some two years, that he was present throughout the whole renegotiation of the contract, that he has been reporting to the minister on a continuous basis as to what was going on with regard to the details of this contract, and that the loss has now escalated to a \$130 million, I should like to ask the minister what sanctions are to be levied against Mr. Campbell who

obviously misled him about the effectiveness of the renegotiation of this contract?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I have already made it clear to the House that I believe Mr. Ross Campbell is Canada's leading negotiator—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Miss MacDonald:** With a \$130 million loss?

**Mr. Gillespie:** I believe he has demonstrated this. He has had a distinguished professional career—

**Mr. Paproski:** What about the rest of them?

**Mr. Gillespie:** Are you interested in the answer?

**Mr. Paproski:** Yes. We are interested in the truth.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Then why don't you listen to my voice instead of your own? If you people don't want an answer, if you are interested only in heckling, I am prepared to wait for a while. When you impugn the integrity of Mr. Ross Campbell as you seem to have done,—I am not sure whether it was advertent or inadvertent—you are making a grievous error and blackening the character of a very distinguished public servant. I hope you will withdraw the imputation you have just made.

#### ARGENTINIAN CONTRACT—REASON FOR DIFFERENTIATION IN TREATMENT BETWEEN MR. CAMPBELL AND DR. FOSTER

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Would the minister give us some rationale as to the distinction he draws between Dr. John Foster and Mr. Ross Campbell?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I have given it on a number of occasions and I am surprised the hon. lady cannot see it. There is a difference between being chairman of the board of directors and having responsibility as president and chief executive officer for the corporation. If the hon. lady does not understand the distinction between having full accountability for the corporation and having responsibility as chairman of the board, I do not think I can help her.

#### ARGENTINIAN CONTRACT—DATE ON WHICH MINISTER LEARNED LOSS ON RENEGOTIATED CONTRACT WAS \$130 MILLION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Following the revelation that EACL stood to lose very large sums of money as a result of the original agreement with the power company of Argentina, the minister repeatedly told the House that as a result of the renegotiation of that contract the loss would be greatly reduced. He gave a figure of \$25 million and on February 22 he said it would be \$40 million. I should like to ask the minister specifically, at what time did he learn that the loss on the Argentinian nuclear reactor would be \$130 million? Did he learn this prior to the signing of the renegotiated