

*Oral Questions*

of those reports have been kept secret. The Prime Minister now has before him another report which was completed by CDIC, with respect to how the company should go and how the technology should be preserved. Will the Prime Minister, to show some faith in the House of Commons, table those reports before the House today?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is asking me to comment on reports that I have not seen, of which I have no knowledge, and he is asking me to do it by the end of the day today. I suggest, if the Hon. Member were not playing politics with this, he at least would have given me notice of his question so that I would know what the heck he is talking about. Obviously he prefers to politicize this issue, once again showing that he is divided from his own Leader on this very subject.

## REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. I would like to point out to him that we are not trying to politicize the issue. We are trying to get to the heart of the problem of accountability for this \$1.4 billion loss.

My question relates to the accountability of the Prime Minister in this case. In view of the fact that we have had this loss and it is the largest in Canadian corporate history, and in view of the fact that the entire board was reappointed in secret, in spite of a government report which condemned the board and the management of the company, did the Prime Minister ask Senator Austin to explain to him why the entire board was reappointed?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Opposition keeps making much of the fact that Canadair has been losing money. It obviously has. The Government had to go before the House in order to get money to keep the company operating. The point is that it was losing money when it was in the private sector.

**Mr. Stevens:** Not so.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The point is that this company was going belly up, that its owners no longer wanted to operate it, that they were trying to get rid of it. The result would have been that it would have closed down in Canada. Because the Government does not share the reactionary philosophy of the Hon. Member, we stepped in and thought that it was important to save the company, to keep the jobs here, and to ensure that the technology still existed in Canada. That is the difference between the Hon. Member's Party and this Party. We made that difference clear last spring when we were debating this subject. When the Members over there basically want to see Canadair shut down, I know the Leader of the Opposition does not, because he knows a little more about it than his Members.

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

**Mr. Wilson:** I wish the Prime Minister knew a little more about it. Then he would take some interest in the fact that \$1.4 billion of taxpayers' moneys have been blown because there has been inaction and a lack of interest in what is going on in Canadair. We are in no way trying to see this company shut down. If anything will cause it to be shut down, it is the inaction and the lack of interest of the Prime Minister.

## POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, since the Prime Minister evaded my question and gave no clear answer, I presume he did not speak to Senator Austin in that way. Because the Prime Minister is the most senior member of the Government of Canada, would he explain to the House why, in view of his lack of interest in this case, we as Members of Parliament should have any confidence in the actions taken by the Government to avoid similar losses in the future?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, if the CDIC management and Senator Austin had not been forthcoming last spring, if they had not put the financial statements in front of the House, if we had not put the matter before two parliamentary committees, if these committees were not going to report within a few days, if Senator Austin did not agree to appear before it, then I could understand the concern of the Hon. Member. He does not want this corporation to be operated on a management-run basis. He wants to stick his political nose into it, and that is what they are trying to do.

Once again, I made it quite clear yesterday, and I repeat it today, that there will be a statement by Senator Austin in front of the committee when the report is made and that he will answer the questions. If the question is asked by the Hon. Member or one of his colleagues and Senator Austin does not answer it, indeed I will find out what the answer is. I think it is normal to give the Minister a chance to answer the question when it is asked of him in the proper way—and stop pointing your finger; that is not polite.

*[Translation]*INQUIRY WHETHER STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO AVOID  
WASTAGE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, I have the impression that our questions are somewhat irritating to the Prime Minister, but considering the fact that Canadians know perfectly well that the Government has already poured \$1.4 billion into this corporation, that the Minister responsible is recommending that the Government provide new funding of as much \$400 million, while 1,300 jobs were lost in the past year, can the Prime Minister today, before the eyes of the Canadian people, inform the House about any guarantees he has to offer that there will be no further wastage of public funds in the future, as he said yesterday, while ignoring the past?