

*Oral Questions**[English]*

But you cannot have your office back.

---

**ORAL QUESTIONS**
*[English]***DE HAVILLAND**

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

In 1985, this government said it sold de Havilland of Toronto to Boeing for \$90 million. In fact, by the time the deal was completed, Boeing got de Havilland free, plus \$60 million in cash. We said then it was a bad deal and we still believe it was a bad deal.

Boeing has now announced it has sold de Havilland to companies controlled by the governments of Italy and France.

Will the Prime Minister tell us what action he is taking to prevent a bad deal for Canada from becoming a disaster for Canada? Can he assure us that these high technology jobs will be kept for the workers of Canada?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, obviously I will not start today by discussing the figures mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition because it would be very easy to contradict what he said. I just want to say that Aerospatiale in France and Alenia from Italy have reached an agreement with Boeing. We will be made aware of any proposal that is submitted to Investment Canada and at that time will apply the appropriate rules governing such a transaction. We will then be in a position to comment on something which is not at the present time a reality.

I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to just follow the rules of Investment Canada and wait for the proposal.

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would tell the minister that we want action immediately, not to wait until all is lost before being able to ask questions. He knows very well that transportation and aviation are important industries for the Canadian economy, especially for the province of Quebec. He should also know that dozens and dozens of companies sell goods and services to de Havilland in Toronto. So

can the minister seriously tell us that he believes that the governments of France and Italy will give priority to Canadians' jobs instead of taking those jobs back to Europe?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I am always pleased and eager to follow up the comments of the Leader of the Opposition when he talks about the aerospace industry in Quebec. Canadair is another company privatized by the Conservative government and its president could assure the Leader of the Opposition that it is a wonderful success for Quebec.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Bouchard (Roberval):** And, Mr. Speaker, can we overlook the announcement of \$300 million for the Canadian Space Agency in Saint-Hubert—but the opposition leader must know that, despite his impatience, governments must work within the rules. And the rules say that companies acquiring a Canadian company must make an official application to Investment Canada. I tell him that once the official application is made and the company's business plan is submitted, we will be able to deal with the issue coherently and logically. Until then, you can frighten people as you are in the habit of doing, but that is not how we solve problems.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be able to answer the hon. minister that when the private sector let de Havilland and Canadair down and I was President of the Treasury Board, we were forced to take those companies back.

• (1420)

*[English]*

Now the same thing is about to happen. The private sector will cream the companies. They will go and the government in Canada will have to take these companies back. I think it is ludicrous for the minister to get up in this House today and tell Canadians that it will be the Government of France and the Government of Italy that keep high technology jobs in Canada.

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, we know the former government took over a lot of Canadian companies, but Canadians know of the disasters as well. They remember. We do not have to explain to Canadians what it means when the Liberal Party leads Canada in terms of the economy. They know the disaster very well.