

Oral Questions

in 1974 to a level way beyond that. They have developed a strong order book. They have got a good distribution network. This was all done when Boeing took over.

As we move to a different purchaser, we will ensure that net benefit to Canada is there again.

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Madam Speaker, the question is, as the minister put it, a question of trust.

I return to the Acting Prime Minister and ask him very simply, will the allegiance of the government lie with the workers of de Havilland and the aerospace industry, or will the allegiance of the government lie with a former chief of staff and long time personal friend of the Prime Minister? Whose side will the government be on? Let us have some confidence and trust for a change on behalf of Canadians.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister may want to answer, but it is very difficult for the Chair to accept that this is a question regarding the administration of government. The decision was made by a private company and not by the government. I do not see how it is a question regarding the administration of the government.

The hon. minister may want to answer. If not, I cannot allow the question.

I have heard the comment made by the hon. member for York West and I do not think he meant to imply any impropriety from the Speaker. I am sure that he will want to rise right away and withdraw the comment.

Mr. Marchi: I concur with your sentiments and I think you are absolutely right.

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TELESAT CANADA

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, my question is also to the Deputy Prime Minister.

It concerns Telesat Canada. In 1985, the Prime Minister laid down the law: No government-owned corporation could hire lobbyists to lobby cabinet. Now we hear that Telesat Canada, the government-owned satellite company, is paying the Prime Minister's former assistant, Bill Fox, and a recent Conservative Party president, Bill Jarvis, to lobby cabinet and to overrule a CRTC decision.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister now stand in his place and respect the rules laid down by the Prime Minister and put an end to this abusive process?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Madam Speaker, the government does not own the company. We are a shareholder, we have an interest in the company, but it is a private company.

Whatever they do is their business. It is Telesat's business. The government will act in its own best interest and in the interest of the nation.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): The majority shareholder in this corporation is the Government of Canada, and therefore it is a government corporation.

I want to ask a supplementary. First of all, cabinet itself could be in a very difficult position. By overruling the CRTC it increases the value of Telesat. Then it will privatize it. At the same time, of course, Tory friends will be rewarded by doing the lobbying.

I want to know this time whose side the Prime Minister is going to be on. Is it the side of the Tory lobbyists or on the side of the people of Canada, for a change?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Madam Speaker, Telesat hired communications consultants to help them prepare their case. I know they did hire them because they happen to be good.

Now, they will do what they feel is appropriate and the government will do what we have to do in the best interests of the nation.

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WOLVERINE COPPER TUBING

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Another Canadian manufacturer has just been deep-sixed by free trade. Wolverine Copper Tubing of Annacis Island, British Columbia, has suddenly and in the middle of contract negotiations closed its doors and is moving production south of the border, throwing 180 British Columbians out on the street. Wolverine is an Alabama