

Madam Speaker, do we have guarantees from this Government that safeguard the jobs of employees working for Canadair?

Do we now have guarantees that major technologies will be developed here in Canada for the aerospace industry? Do we have major guarantees for the Montreal area? And is the price a good price for Canada? During the last ten or fifteen years, Canadian men and women have paid about \$2.2 billion into Canadair. And now the Minister is suggesting we may get only \$120 million for Canadair.

What is the history of Canadair, Madam Speaker? Canadair was bought by the Trudeau Government from General Dynamics in 1976, ten years ago. The Government bought it because General Dynamics had a problem. People who worked in the industry saw a possibility that the company might go bankrupt. Canadair is now No. 1 in the Canadian aerospace industry. And since 1944, that is 42 years ago, that industry has built something like 4,000 aircraft here in Canada. Of those 4,000 aircraft, it has built 600 jets here in Canada. And I know, Madam Speaker, that you agree with me when I say that one of Canadair's great successes was the building of its Challenger aircraft. The Challenger was a success, a great success because the Government massively subsidized research and development for that important aircraft which was sold around the world.

There is something else about Canadair: this Canadian corporation, like many other aerospace industries, has many contracts with the military, not only the Canadian military but also the Pentagon in the United States and NATO.

One other thing, and I already mentioned it, this is an important issue for Montrealers. There are four Canadair plants—three in Ville-Saint-Laurent, a suburb of Montreal, and a fourth one in Dorval where there are now 4,500 jobs. Madam Speaker, that industry is extremely important for Montreal, for the Province of Quebec and for Canada as a whole. And as I said, this is an important aspect of our overall philosophy of developing this country's future.

[English]

It is a very important industry in terms of technology and in terms of where we are going as a country. We must have some real development in the aerospace industry in the future. If one looks around at most countries in the world, one finds a great deal of public investment and involvement in the aerospace industry.

● (1610)

I would like to ask my friends in the Conservative Party to consider why they are privatizing this company and indeed why they are setting out on the course of privatization. I am concerned that some members of the Government Party have bees in their bonnets and want to privatize, as much as possible, some of the great Crown corporations in Canada. Perhaps some of those Crown corporations should be privatized. I am not arguing that all the Crown corporations should

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stay that way forever. However, let us not privatize in a *carte blanche* fashion.

Let us look at the history and ideology of the Conservative Party of Canada. Going back to Sir John A. Macdonald through to John Diefenbaker, Conservatives have believed that there is a role for the state to play through Crown corporations.

Mr. Boyer: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nystrom: One of my Conservative friends has said: "Hear, hear", and he is right. It was a Conservative Party that brought the CBC, the CNR and many of the other great national Crown corporations to Canada.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as well as the Canadian Wheat Board and other Crown corporations of major importance in Canada today were established by the Conservative Party a long time ago. However, that was a different Conservative Party, a more Progressive one than the present Conservative Party.

[English]

It was not only the National Conservative Party that had an interest in public institutions. A few years ago, Premier Bill Davis of Ontario bought shares in Suncor. Peter "The Red" Lougheed started PWA in Alberta. As well, he put public funds into the oil industry and took out equity in that industry for the Province of Alberta. There is a tradition in the Conservative Party to recognize the importance of public participation of Crown corporations in the economy.

I would plead with my friends in the Conservative Party not to get carried away and try to privatize many of our important national Crown corporations and institutions. For example, the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) said he sent out a questionnaire in his riding and received responses indicating that 51 per cent of the people wanted this privatized, 65 per cent wanted that privatized and 70 per cent wanted the other thing privatized. I tell the Hon. Member not to be fooled.

When the Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) was elected Prime Minister in 1979, he wanted to privatize Petro-Canada. Because he wanted to privatize Petro-Canada he lost a lot of public support. He also lost a vote of confidence in the House in December of 1979, and that resulted in his defeat as Prime Minister nine months after he was first elected. When Canadians realized that Petro-Canada might disappear they turned *en masse* against the Conservative Party led by the former Prime Minister and they voted for a lot of New Democrats and Liberals.

I remember very well the history of Petro-Canada. I remember the minority Government of 1972-74 at which time one of the conditions members of the New Democratic Party gave for making Parliament work was the establishment of a Crown corporation in the oil industry. I am very proud of the role played by Stanley Knowles, David Lewis and others in