

Air Canada

[English]

There will be a loss of jobs. I would like the Hon. Member for Comox—Powell River (Mr. Skelly) to remember what the NDP said. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is in the House right now; he is the greatest Minister of Finance that Canada has ever had or will ever have.

An Hon. Member: What about Mr. Crosbie?

Mr. Grisé: When the Minister of Finance issued his first Budget, the NDP said that we would lose 200,000 jobs in Canada with the first Conservative budget. Well, so far the Government has created 1.3 million jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

... 1,300,000 jobs, and that's not all, Madam Speaker.

Those who say that privatization of Air Canada will lead to a loss of jobs should also refer to previous cases of privatization. How many jobs were lost at de Havilland, Canadair and Bombardier?

An Hon. Member: Good work, Richard, you're getting on their nerves!

Mr. Grisé: That's privatization, but the socialists are against it.

The Liberal-NDP coalition is slowly emerging. It is a wonderful sight, Madam Speaker.

The National Transportation Act states very clearly:

[English]

The National Transportation Act requires an airline to be 75 per cent Canadian owned and to be Canadian controlled in order to obtain a licence.

[Translation]

The National Transportation Act clearly states that Canadian airlines must be 75 per cent owned by Canadians.

I was listening earlier to the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) who is having some trouble with his calculations since he figured out that 25 per cent of 45 per cent of shares is five-ninths. I don't understand how... Since the Minister of Finance and a finance critic are in the House, they could maybe explain to me...

[English]

How can 45 per cent be a majority? It would come up to five-ninths like the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) said a few minutes ago. I have a little problem with that.

An Hon. Member: That is only one of your problems.

Mr. Grisé: You have more problems than I do. I am not talking to you, Madam Speaker. I am talking to the Member for—

An Hon. Member: That is unparliamentary.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Maybe the Hon. Member was not speaking to me, but he should.

[Translation]

Mr. Grisé: Madam Speaker, I will continue to address my comments to the Chair, of course...

Mr. Gauthier: In a more clever fashion, I hope.

Mr. Grisé: I beg your pardon. Especially after the day we went through yesterday, going third reading, to Bill C-72 which remains an historic event and one which all the people in my riding of Chambly support just as the Bill authorizing the privatization of Air Canada.

I was listening to NDP Members... Madam Speaker, I am not allowed to refer to this—but how many of them attended the legislative committee on the privatization of Air Canada? Did they hear the comments made by Air Canada management? Did they hear the comments made by Bob White's colleagues? Of course they heard of them, Madam Speaker—but they didn't really hear them, they read them, because all the comments made by the socialists in tonight's debate are a rehash of the comments made by the representatives of certain unions and Bob White's allies on the subject of the privatization of Air Canada.

● (2150)

On the other hand, no mention is made of the Air Canada Employees' Committee on Share-Buying which appeared before our Committee. And how many of them are in favour...

Some Hon. Members: Name them!

Mr. Grisé: ... they have confidence in their Parliamentary Secretary, Madam Speaker, which is why Ministers can get away from their job.

[English]

The Ministers have confidence in their Parliamentary Secretary being able to manage the House for the time remaining.

[Translation]

No, no, he's a good guy. The Member from Châteauguay (Mr. Lopez) is an excellent MP, of course, just like the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), the Minister in charge of political functions on the South-Shore and in the Montérégie region.

I could also make a few comments on motion No. 7 in the name of the Member from Winnipeg.