

dollars more for it. The Government is not only literally giving away this company to the private sector, but doing it at a time when the market is low.

The Government says it is not going to sell all of the shares of Air Canada, but it is not saying when it is going to sell any of the shares. It is going to sell some of the shares as soon as it possibly can. If it sells even one share of Air Canada, that Crown corporation stops being an arm of public policy to be used by Government or Parliament to the betterment and advantage of the people of Canada.

This is just a ludicrous situation. The Government said it had to give notice and limit the debate because, first, we would not sit extended hours on Friday. I have already mentioned that. Then it came through with this notice of motion on Friday, 15 minutes before we moved to deal with Private Members' Business. What the Government called consultation was to ask the opposition Parties how many speakers they proposed to put up. That is supposed to be consultation. There was no indication at all that it was going to limit debate.

The Government did this at a time when most Members were in their ridings, and no notice was given to either Members in the House or the various House Leaders. It waited until the last possible minute, knowing that as many Members as possible would be out of Ottawa. It is just incredible. Then the Government comes forward with the most ridiculous, most inane reasons for circumventing the rights of Parliament and the people of Canada. The new House rules may be an advantage but there are certain large gaps, and Standing Order 117 is one of them. In any event, the Government will not respect the spirit of the rules. It will use every little deficiency it sees in the rules to circumvent the rights of Parliament. That is a travesty and the Government is doing it more and more every day.

The Government expects goodwill from members of the Opposition. Certainly this opposition Party is prepared to give it if the Government has any sense of decency and any sense of acting in the best interests of Parliament and the people of this country. However, it has shown clearly it has not. Yet it will cry. It is the whiniest Government you will ever see. Any time members opposite feel someone steps on their toes, any time their noses are twigged, there is a wailing and hollering and beating of breasts and pounding of heads, a scene like you have never seen before. Yet we in the Opposition are supposed to be able to take that. We are supposed not only to have our rights trampled upon by the Government but we are supposed to allow the rights of the people of Canada to go undefended.

We are not going to do it. If we have to sit here all summer, every day, we are not going to do it. We are not going to do it because to do it would be a breakdown of the democracy which has existed in this country since it was founded.

Mr. Morrissey Johnson (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Madam Speaker, I will refrain from talking about parliamentary procedure because, like most Members here, I have not

had the benefit of 15 or 20 years to learn all about it. To be quite honest with you, I do not believe that a lot of the people who have spoken today learned an awful lot in the time they have been here.

What I hear being debated now, does not make any sense. I thought everyone in the Opposition wanted to express their views about why Air Canada should not be privatized. Yet I have not heard anyone saying anything today about why Air Canada should not be privatized. They are talking about the rights of which they are being deprived by not being able to speak about it. Why do they not use the time they have today to talk about what a great disservice will be done to the people of Canada if we allow Air Canada to be privatized?

• (1550)

The reason I have not spoken on the Bill to date is because the people in my riding are saying that we should get it over with, that the mistake the Government is making is that it is not going all the way and allowing all the shares to be bought by the public.

I do not know what all the argument is about. I do know that if the motion before us is passed there will be another full day of debate. There have already been eight and a half hours of debate. Even then the debate will not be over.

I have heard Members talk about parliamentary reform. It certainly was not the Official Opposition that brought in parliamentary reform, it was the Progressive Conservative Government which brought in the parliamentary reform to which everyone is referring now. We saw the results of parliamentary reform last week when a private Member's Bill was passed in the House with Members on the government side voting in favour of Bill C-204. It does not seem that this Government wants to implement a dictatorship in the House of Commons. It is clear to me that the Government wants private Members to have a say in what is being passed in this House.

As I said, there would be another full day of debate and the Bill would then go to a legislative committee, which is another part of parliamentary reform brought in by the Government, where it would be debated by whichever Members are appointed to sit on the committee. The Bill would be debated in that committee for a number of days. I hear that some legislative committees have gone on for months, partly because the Opposition has used stalling tactics, similar to what they are doing today, so that the legislation would not come back to the House where it could be debated again at report stage.

After that, Madam Speaker, it will be debated again at third reading. When it leaves this Chamber and goes to the other Chamber, it will be debated once more.

Opposition Members obviously know that there are many Bills presently before the House and more Bills which will be brought in which contain good legislation for the country. They do not want them to come forward. They are hoping that after a while Members will get tired of the long hot summer