

*Air Canada*

Instead, it is attempting to say that it is only partially privatizing Air Canada. The majority of shares, 55 per cent, will still be held by the Government, and 45 per cent by private shareholders.

However, when we listen to our very able critic on the Air Canada privatization, the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan), we learn that while the Government claims there will only be 45 per cent privatization, it has clearly indicated that it will proceed to instruct government shareholders to vote with the majority of the private shareholders. Therefore, the voting preference of the new Air Canada board will be specifically based on the bottom line.

I repeat that there may be instances when the bottom line will mitigate against travel to certain far-flung parts of this country.

What will happen to the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) and his constituents if Air Canada suddenly decides, in its so-called private sector wisdom, no longer to fly into his riding because it is no longer economically feasible? The Conservative Government may believe that in order to do business and live in this country one must live in Toronto, Montreal, or Vancouver, but history has dictated a different development for this country. History has said that the Government, in the form of Crown corporations, has an extremely specific role to play in ensuring that constituents like those of the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe, the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker), the Hon. Member for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador (Mr. Rompkey), the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), or the Hon. Member for Hamilton East should all have the same right to transportation services.

In its attempt to cease and desist public ownership of Air Canada, the Government is moving to destroy a nation-wide transportation network that was established on the notion that the public sector and private sector could play a role in moving Canadians from coast to coast.

There was a dream of a national railway because all Canadians should have an equal access to services. But that dream is being chipped away on a daily basis by a Prime Minister and a Government that do not understand that to be Canadian may mean paying a little more, but to be Canadian is a price worth paying.

This legislation is the thin edge of the wedge.

*[Translation]*

With the Bill tabled yesterday, we know for sure now that in the trade deal signed by Mr. Mulroney and the President of the United States, the Government reserved the power to amend any piece of legislation. It is unbelievable, Mr. Speaker. It is hard to believe that the Americans specified in their own bill that American law prevails over any trade treaty between two countries, when we are doing it the other way around here in Canada and saying that the trade deal takes precedence over any piece of legislation, be it federal or provincial, in

matters concerning language, culture, way of life, or even municipal administration. So, Mr. Speaker, in a country that used to be called Canada and which is now disappearing with all those bills that are detrimental to our public policy, all future governments will have to ask Washington's approval before enacting any new legislation. Now, before introducing any legislation on transport, health or social services, before implementing a child care program in any province or before giving grants to mothers, as was proposed recently in Quebec, we will have to ask the United States for their permission, because if they claim that any federal or provincial law or municipal by-law goes against the Free Trade Agreement, it can be a problem. Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that here, in Canada, the Government introduces a bill that gives the free trade agreement precedence over all other legislation and processes, while the United States do exactly the opposite?

Mr. Speaker, it is because the Prime Minister and the Conservative Government unfortunately never understood the message that was given to them first and foremost by the first Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. MacDonald, when he tried to build a country from the East Coast to the West Coast. I live in Hamilton, which is only 60 kilometers from Niagara Falls, in the United States. Had Canada been developed differently, it would have been easier for us to join New York. Why do we belong to a country that links British Columbia to the Maritimes? Why do we not associate ourselves with New York, Vermont or other places that are closer to us geographically? Why do I associate myself geographically and historically with people who live 2000, 3000 or 4000 kilometers from me? It is because the Prime Ministers of the first successive Governments, both Conservatives and Liberals, had decided that, in order to establish and strengthen Canada as we know it, the Government had to get directly involved in the transportation network, in the communication network, in the culture network—that was CBC—and also in the social services network, through the Canada Health Act.

That is not exactly the course followed by the United States. Their wisdom made them follow different paths and they always believed that money and the private sector could always do things better. Good for them. If they prefer to have private blood banks and to sell blood as they would any other commodity, it is their business but, personally, I don't want to see Canada follow the same route. And I wonder why in the free trade agreement, which has been tabled in this House, they even agreed to include blood banks as a potential service arrangement in Canada, similar to those in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that for the first time in the history of Canada the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) approved two years ago the establishment of a profit-making blood bank located in Montreal. And we have now learned from the documents tabled with respect to the free trade agreement, that profit-making blood banks already existing in the United States will be allowed to come and do business in Canada.