

Ms. Mitchell: It makes a profit. What's the matter with you?

Mr. Attewell: The Hon. Member says Air Canada is making profits. That is good, it is. When does one sell a corporation? When it is on the ropes? No, when it is doing well and one receives a better price. In that manner, the taxpayers' money is not being given away.

Ms. Mitchell: When it is doing what it is supposed to be doing for the people of Canada, you sell it.

Mr. Attewell: The third reason we opt for this particular approach is our sense of the market-place.

An Hon. Member: That's the number one and only reason.

Mr. Attewell: Wardair is doing very well. Canadian Airlines International is doing very well. Air Canada is doing very well. We submit that they should all be on the same footing. Yes, we do differ with the other two Parties on our philosophy. I would remind them of the whining and wailing they did when we proposed to sell de Havilland. What a disaster that was supposed to be. There would be thousands of jobs lost. The Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan)—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McKinnon): The Hon. Member is doing his best to deliver a speech in the very few minutes that he has available, and I would very much appreciate it if I could hear him.

Mr. Attewell: This whining and wailing is at the heart of the issue. The facts prove that a situation like de Havilland was a stroke of genius. The jobs are secure. As a matter of fact, more than 1,000 new jobs have been added. The marketing fit with Boeing was absolutely perfect. That company is on the rise. Let the record show what the two opposition Parties said about that.

In conclusion, I wish to read some quotes from an independent source. In an article by Dian Cohen she states:

It took Transport Minister Don Mazankowski 40 minutes to subdue a rowdy Opposition in order to put on the House of Commons table the Bill which will ultimately allow Air Canada to be sold to the private sector. Why the Opposition opposes the question I can't answer, and I suspect they can't answer either.

What a telling tale that is.

The world has changed. The Government has opted to let Air Canada become private and bid for money the same way Canadian and Wardair do. It has opted for this because it does not want to have to choose between farmers, day care, other issues, and Air Canada. It recognizes that the world has changed in the last 50 years, and that the need for a state run airline has diminished. All the airlines have shown their own understanding of the need to develop feeder lines running out from the hub airports. The Government can, and has, put restrictions in place regarding the maintenance of maintenance bases across the country.

Criminal Code

I consider almost insulting the insinuation from the previous speaker, the Hon. Member for Drummond (Mr. Guilbault), that the present executive and management of Air Canada would reduce their caution and care for safety. That is an insult to their professional competence.

In closing, this Party is for privatization when it does not serve a public policy purpose. We will continue to do that. Canadians want that. We said that during the election and we will stand by that. I am here in a very strong way to support this proposal. The airline will not be diminished in any way. As a matter of fact, I predict that it will be strengthened and jobs will grow. Air Canada is a class act, and it knows how it can get on in an even better way by increasing market share, and Canadians across the country, by and large, are for this. They will ignore the rhetoric, whining, complaining, and emotional pleas of both Parties to my right.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McKinnon): It being four forty-five o'clock p.m., pursuant to order made earlier this day the putting of the question now before the House is deferred until 5.45 p.m. later this day.

It being 4.45 p.m., pursuant to order made earlier this day, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--BILLS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston) moved that Bill C-261, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (abortion), be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to introduce this Bill at second reading stage. Bill C-261 was introduced and given first reading on June 22, 1987, almost one year ago. The purpose of the Bill would have been to close the loophole in the law that allows an abortion when the mother's life or health was, or was likely to be in danger.

On January 28, 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the particular section in the Criminal Code of Canada was unconstitutional. In a five-two decision the court held that Section 251 of the Criminal Code of Canada was contrary to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Here we are some four months later and we still have not dealt with the issue of abortion here in the House. To my understanding, this is the first time since the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in late January that the House of Commons is considering the merits with regard to abortion. There have been procedural concerns raised about the issue and the introduction of a motion in the House, but this is the first time the issue is being considered on its merits.