

Vacancy

lose the services of the national carrier. We well know that clause 10 of this Bill requires Air Canada to maintain services in both official languages. Clause 10 states, "The *Official Languages Act* applies to the Corporation." Once the Corporation has given up the regional service lines, what will happen to bilingual services? I asked the President of Air Canada this very question yesterday and he told us that there was little danger of that happening. But I must point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that no law requires these carriers to respect this obligation of Air Canada. Here too, the regions will be the losers. We will lose these services that are essential for us.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this privatization of Air Canada means a considerable loss for Canadians. It is the loss of an essential tool that has enabled us to serve all regions of Canada. So, Mr. Speaker, as you may have understood, I am opposed to the privatization and want Air Canada to continue to serve all Canadians as a Crown corporation.

• (1750)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Redway): It being six o'clock p.m. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m., at which time the House will proceed to the question of the action of anti-fur lobbyists in Europe and the interest of the British Government.

At 6.00 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

VACANCY

ROSEDALE—HON. DAVID CROMBIE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a communication notifying me of the following vacancy in the representation: the Hon. David Crombie, Member for the electoral district of Rosedale, because he has accepted another position. Accordingly, I have addressed my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer for the issue of a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29

[English]

FUR TRAPPING INDUSTRY

CAMPAIGN ON SALE OF CANADIAN FURS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has granted leave to the Hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. MacDougall) to move for the adjournment of the House pursuant to Standing Order 29, for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the action of anti-fur lobbyists in Europe and the intention of the British Government.

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming) moved:

That this House do now adjourn.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in starting this debate tonight, may I first say how much I appreciate the support of all Hon. Members in what I believe is one of the most important issues facing rural Canada.

We are here this evening because the Canadian fur industry is being seriously threatened by recent happenings in Britain and Europe. Anti-fur campaigns have mounted an aggressive assault on our fur industry. European boycotts, called for by animal rights groups, directly harm Canadian trappers across our land, particularly native people who harvest fur-bearing animals for their livelihoods. These lobbying groups have proven very successful at getting their message across to their elected representatives. As a result, the British Government is currently considering legislation which would require fur products to be labelled, clearly in an effort to restrain and check retailers from selling furs and the public from purchasing them.

This week, on the front page of the financial section of a major newspaper, Canadians read an article bearing the heading "Fur industry jeopardized by activists," which reads as follows:

European fur buyers are becoming nervous and hesitant, contributing to a weaker market for Canada's fur products in recent months, industry spokesmen say.

The article goes on:

Fur prices in Canada this year are down about one-third from last year, said Ken McKay, manager of the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association.

"The European situation has affected the market," Mr. McKay said. "European buyers are hesitant."

It continues:

Robert Carmichael, chief of commercial wildlife management in Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, said the anti-fur activists are aware the actions of the British Government will carry "a terrific amount of weight" when other European countries decide whether to restrict the sale of fur.

"It's exactly the same route that the seal industry took. There is absolutely no doubt that this is not just a local trade measure. This is part of a carefully calculated plan. This is the big push."