

Government Orders

It is becoming acceptable. I want to read from a document on proposed reform of the Ontario Labour Relations Act, the discussion paper of the Ministry of Labour, November 1991. It states, among other things: "Labour relations reform, while essential to the government's objectives, is only one element of an over-all agenda for the renewal of Ontario's economy which includes, amongst other things, encouraging worker investment and ownership in Ontario companies in a manner which recognizes the benefits of worker participation for both labour and business".

I am sorry there are no members of the New Democratic Party to hear that message. I am not reflecting on their attendance. I am sure they are all doing important things.

The reality is that I would hope we could deal with this legislation fairly expeditiously. It is a common sense approach. It is successfully being used by 25 per cent of the companies trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The hon. member for Beaches—Woodbine is suggesting we expand it. That may well be something for the future. The advice we have is that the 10 per cent allocated to employee stock savings plans is a common amount in terms of these types of systems. To take the next step and go below that, we are talking about privatization which philosophically does not offend me but does represent a different step than the one we are taking here and would have to be dealt with at another time and in another piece of legislation.

Air Canada has plans like this in place. It is a very common thing. We have the New Democratic Government of Ontario suggesting that its proposals for its social and economic agenda and renewal of Ontario's economy talked about encouraging worker investment. Wherever we are on the political spectrum, left or right, we can only come to the conclusion that it is common sense and it is something we ought to do.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to advise the House that under Standing Order 74, the first two speakers have 40 minutes with no questions or comments. The third speaker will have 20 minutes plus questions or comments.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond to both the speech of the minister and the second reading of this bill on behalf of my colleagues in the Liberal Party.

In 1985 the Prime Minister told Canadians that Air Canada was not for sale and that he had no intention of privatizing Air Canada. Never has the opposite of the truth been stated with greater accuracy. Only a few years later Air Canada was sold off.

Today we are discussing a bill to sell 10 per cent of the shares of Canada Post. The minister has just told us he philosophically does not object to privatizing Canada Post but that this particular bill is not doing that. Again, this is less than totally accurate.

Whether or not one disposes of the shares to the in-laws of MPs or to the employees of Canada Post, one is privatizing that part one is selling off, by definition. In fact we are talking about a bill to privatize 10 per cent of Canada Post this time. The minister has already indicated that he does not philosophically object to selling off our postal service. Notice the emphasis on the word "service", Mr. Speaker. The minister keeps talking about Canada Post "business", Canada Post "competitors".

Down the concession, the 4th line road of Sarsfield, Ontario, there is no competition for Canada Post. The person delivers the mail. Canada Post is a monopoly. There is no competition for first-class mail. No one else can legally do it. It is against the act. So let us not talk about competition.

I wonder how many companies are delivering mail in the riding of my colleague from Cape Breton Highlands—Canso besides Canada Post. None. Canada Post is it. It has a monopoly. That is the same in my colleague's riding, my riding or the riding of the hon. member for Pierrefonds—Dollard sitting across the way. Canada Post delivers the mail. That is it.

The minister might say: "Oh, yes, but Canada Post has competition in the sense that other people deliver parcels". It may be so in that regard, save and except that he probably forgot to tell us that Canada Post recently invented its own courier system. It has even bought one overseas when it bought shares in an outfit in Australia that owns something else in Europe called G.D. Express. It spent something like \$48 million to do that.

The minister says that for three years Canada Post has made money. Of course the minister is in no position to refute my statement right now. Let me put it that way. I challenge the minister right now to tell me how much profit Canada Post will make this year. Of course the minister is not responding. We will note that he is not