

only good sense to take out the word "profit". If you are going to put it in, put in words like "in contemplation of profit and service". That is what Air Canada should be concerned about.

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I must say I find myself very much in agreement with the hon. member for Moncton (Mr. Jones) with regard to this bill. I want to make one or two comments about one or two of the remarks made from the other side, particularly by Conservative members and especially by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie).

I believe there is a very strong feeling on the other side that we would be better off without Air Canada and without Canadian National. It seems to me we have had a constant struggle in committee even to hold on to what we have in terms of Air Canada and Canadian National. I notice that the hon. member took a long swipe at the government, talking about expenditures going up 350 per cent: I believe that was the figure he used. It seems to me there are too many of these loose figures being used in the House. I do not deny that the figure is correct, but these figures, taking them as they are, really do not tell the story.

In this country, taking a fixed, 1970 dollar—in other words, a non-inflated dollar—and leaving out inflation as a factor, means that personal consumption since 1968, the year the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) took over the reins of government, rose by 52 percent. In the period from 1970 to 1976, the gross national product increased by 42 per cent. But the cost of government services rose by only 41 per cent, on the basis of fixed dollars. So government spending has not been out of line when one discounts the inflation factor.

An hon. Member: That is the same speech as you gave last week.

Mr. McRae: I will give it again and again, because this is an important matter. If we blame the government for everything and we use figures which are not correct, because there are other factors, then we in government have to keep saying it over and over again so the Canadian people will understand that governments cannot take responsibility for all the problems of this country.

I am very concerned about where Air Canada is going. Without doubt, we have in this country one of the finest airlines in the world. Air Canada has to be one of the half dozen finest airlines in the world. It is a fine airline because it serves not only the large communities of this country but also the medium-sized communities. It does things well. It is very important to the hon. member for Moncton—

Mr. Lang: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, there have been the usual discussions and I understand there is agreement in the House to an order that if any votes are required on the report stage of Bill C-3, they should stand adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You mean, deferred.

Public Reports

Mr. Lang: Deferred.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Agreed and so ordered. It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business, namely, public bills, private bills, and notices of motions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

FINANCE

MEASURE RESPECTING COST OF PUBLISHING PUBLIC REPORTS

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil) moved that Bill C-201, respecting the cost of publishing public reports, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

• (1702)

He said: Mr. Speaker, the bill we are discussing this afternoon derives from a feeling in the public sector that there is certain waste and inefficiency in the printing and publication of documents. Certainly there is a definite lack of communication among the public service, politicians and the public. That lack of communication cannot be attributed to the number of documents published by the various departments and agencies. Part of the problem in the offices of members of parliament is the number of documents issued. It is absolutely impossible to even scan the material which crosses our desks every day.

The bill I have introduced comes about because of a comment of a constituent, a doctor and a professor at MacDonald campus of McGill University, who drew attention to some legislation which exists in the United States. There were two objectives there: one was to publish the cost of all public documents, and the other one was to ensure annual verification of mailing lists to ensure that everyone who wanted documents would receive them at the correct price, and those who no longer wanted them would so indicate. My constituent pointed out that the identification of cost created a public awareness before public documents were wasted.

The explanatory note in my bill reads as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to ensure more adequate cost accountability in the production and dissemination of government and other public reports.

For the benefit of those persons reading *Hansard*, I should like to review briefly the four short paragraphs which form this bill. Of course the first paragraph is the title of the bill, "Public Reports Cost Control Act". The second paragraph attempts to define the word "report". It reads as follows:

"report" means any annual, biennial, regular or special report or document of which at least 500 copies are printed and that may be distributed to the public.