

process in place to guarantee that those people will be able to keep their pensions or continue their pension growth at a rate they would like.

My main reason for speaking in this debate at this time is to point out that although the Government has a right to its policies, if it wants to privatize, that is its right, although we will oppose it because it is not our policy. But if it is going to take the right wing idea to sell a Crown corporation just because it is called a "Crown corporation", and if it is going to ignore the fact that the Crown corporation we are selling is producing goods basically for the Government of Canada, it does so at its own peril.

The Government has an obligation to be concerned about what happens to the employees who are at the present time employees of the people of Canada. If this industry was the only industry the Government was going to privatize, it would be of major concern, because we are concerned about the workers of Canadian Arsenals. But it is even more of concern when we know that it is the Government's intention to continue this process, that it wishes to sell Crown corporation after Crown corporation for whatever ill-defined justification it may have. Yet the Government has not told us what its policy is for the workers. It has not even said what the policies are for the communities in which these industries are located. It has not told us what its responsibility is as it gets out of certain endeavours. If this Government had a soul or a heart, and if it had any real knowledge of where it wants to take the country, one of its Members or a Cabinet Minister would rise and explain exactly what its policy is towards the effected communities.

If the Government is going to go hell-bent for leather and privatize agency after agency, Government Members should be able to rise in the House and tell the workers and the unions who are involved what the Government's policy is. That is my major concern. No one has done that.

● (1420)

Members of the Government get up and talk about a namby-pamby amendment which they have brought in at the dying stages of discussion on the legislation. The amendment deals with one set of workers in a particular way, but it does not explain where the Government wants to go in the long run. We have already heard from representatives of the workers to the effect that the amendment which is before us is not good enough. We know that to be the case. However, it is even more worrisome that the Government has not said where it will go in the future.

I realize that my time is about to expire. I hope that other Members will get up to see if we can force one of those reluctant Government back-benchers to stand up and say where the Government is taking the country as it goes off on its wild ride toward privatization.

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate at the report stage debate of Bill C-87 which

Canadian Arsenals Limited

deals with the selling of Canadian Arsenals Limited. I say that I am pleased to participate in the debate since I had the opportunity, along with my colleague, the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria), to participate in second reading debate on this piece of legislation.

At that time, as you will perhaps recall, Mr. Speaker, since I think you were presiding in the Chair, we had a number of grave concerns about the entire process and approach by which the Government was attempting to proceed with this Bill. At that time Hon. Members may recall that we were questioning why the Government was proceeding without giving Canadians the benefit of information. In effect, the Government was saying: "Yes, it is a good price for which we sold this particular company, but we will not tell Canadians what that price is. Just trust us". That was the philosophy which characterized the approach of the Conservative Government during the debate at second reading.

During the committee hearings I think the heat of the observations and representations, not only of members of the Official Opposition but of other representatives from across the country, made the Government come clean, to a certain extent, with respect to a number of questions. However, I regret that at report stage I need to stand in my place again and make a similar pitch on a different issue.

The issue we are debating this afternoon deals with Motion No. 2 which stands in the name of the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. It states:

That Bill C-87, be amended by adding immediately after line 34 at page 5 the following:

"12. An employee of the Corporation, as of the day prior to the date of transfer, will have the right, on transferring to the new employer, either to:

- (a) choose to remain and continue as a contributor to the federal superannuation plan, and the employee will pay both the employee's and the employer's shares of the required contributions to the plan; or
- (b) become a contributor to the pension plan as described in the agreement of purchase and sale between the government and the new employer."

What the Hon. Member is attempting to do by putting forward this motion is have the Government come clean with the employees of this company. This would give them some sense of assurance, some sense of continuity and a sense of respect and dignity in terms of their future with this particular company. This is to what the amendment refers. The amendment speaks in defence of not only the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the particular union involved, but the 800 workers, some of whom have spent a great number of years in the employ of this company.

The average age of a worker at the company is 34 years. He has an average of six years of service and a salary of \$22,680. That individual, that breadwinner, wants to know, not tomorrow or the month after but today how his pension contributions will be affected. He wants to know what kind of choices and opportunities he will have in terms of these pension contributions. This is to what the amendment speaks.

The Government has said in a holus-bolus way: "We will move a motion which will allow us to make an Order in