

*Government Orders*

I remember meeting with the minister of agriculture for Sweden, Mats Hellstrom, who is playing a role in the GATT talks in Brussels this very day. He advised me that when the democratic socialist government was in power in Sweden, it did not nationalize a single corporation and its policy was opposed to it. It preferred that the corporations operated in a tightly regulated free enterprise sector.

However, when the right-wing government took over from the social democrats, it nationalized some corporations that were held by a lot of its friends and financial supporters who had gone broke. They persuaded the right-wing government to take those corporations over and the taxpayers ended up bailing out those corporations.

In some cases, that is exactly what happened here in Canada. The government of the day recognized the need of some of its financial donors to have these corporations taken off their hands. After all, Canadian National was not nationalized. Its private operators bankrupted it and then the government was forced to take it over.

The same thing happened, as my colleague reminded me, in British Columbia with the B.C. rail system, the former Pacific Great Eastern Railway. When the railway sold off all the land grants that were given to it by the province and ran the railway into the ground because it started from nowhere and ended nowhere, the government of the day took over the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and completed it from terminus to terminus. Now it operates as one of the great railways of the country, performing a service to developing the central and northern part of British Columbia and shipping our lumber out into export markets. It was done strictly for pragmatic reasons in some cases, but also it was done by Liberal and Tory governments to bail out their bankrupt supporters and to use taxpayers' funds to take over these corporations.

I am more concerned right now about what this government is doing to our national institutions. I am concerned about the destruction of the post office as a community centre and as a means of communication that represents Canada in virtually every single community in every single riding in the country. There is the destruction of Canada's national airline, Air Canada, which was sold off by the Conservative government through a

privatization process and now Air Canada is in the process of selling off its assets, its share of an aircraft leasing corporation based in Ireland, selling off its aircraft, cutting down on its services, and cutting down on the communities that it serves in the country. It is now in the private sector and it does not have to have a commitment to the Canadian people and to each and every community in Canada.

The government has done the same thing with VIA Rail. Railways were the first things that brought the country together. When my family came from Ireland in 1819 to the country, they came as many Irish people did, to build the railways in the country that were the initial ties that bound the provinces and ultimately the country together. Now, this government has severed those ties. It has broken up the rail system and this major institution of Canada that brought the country together, and continues to hold the country together, is now in jeopardy as a result of what the Conservative government is doing.

I do not think the Conservative government is privatizing Petro-Canada because it is going to improve the corporation's operations. I think it is going to operate the same way as they have instructed it to operate now. If it is gouging people, it is going to continue to do so, but it is only doing so now because it has been instructed or permitted by the Conservative Party in government to do so, so that the people of Canada will lose their respect for the institution of a national petroleum company and refuse to support it.

Basically what they are doing is following their ideological bent. This is a new ideological bent. This is not the old Conservatism of John A. Macdonald, R. B. Borden, or Meighen, all of whom had as their goal and as their objective the progress of Canada and the progress of its institutions.

This is Conservatism that derives itself from the new-right Republicanism of the United States, a Republicanism exemplified by the presidency of Ronald Reagan. He talked about fighting the deficit, yet he ran the deficit of the United States higher than any other president, any other political party in history. He talked about privatization. He talked about deregulation and we know exactly what happened to the thrifts and the savings and loans institutions in the United States. Deregulation meant that every crook and gouger who