

Government Orders

This member for Kamloops talks about tyranny because he has not had several weeks to debate a bill, even though we have campaigned on it, even though it is an integral part of our philosophy, even though he knew we would want to do this. He does not believe that the government is entitled to its legislation.

• (1230)

I want him to know that this government was not elected to introduce or enact a socialist agenda. His objection to the legislation is that it does not conform to his ideology. He is entitled to his ideology and his beliefs but we were not elected to introduce his ideology. We were elected to introduce and enact ours. Privatization is an integral part of our philosophy and we are entitled to it. As a truly democratically elected majority government, we are entitled to this legislation.

I do not know why he gets so frustrated and why he introduces all the hyperbole, as did my friend from Gander, "Where is Air Canada gone?" I went home last Thursday and my boarding card said "Air Canada" on it. It had the famous red and white colours. I think all the personnel were Air Canada personnel. I think Air Canada is still flying. Why is it any less Air Canada that there are private shares held rather than public? I think Air Canada is there.

By the way, he says, "Where is the post office corporation?" I believe it was the Liberal Party, the Liberal government that privatized and made that a Crown corporation, took it out of the government portfolio and made a Crown corporation out of it. I think it was Andre Ouellet, as a matter of fact, who did it. Now he says, "Where are all the post offices?" I think they are still there. They have not been taken away.

We believe in this. We believe that privatizing Petro-Canada is good for Canada. I remember when the original bill was first brought in. My friend across the way who represents the farming community remembers when it was brought in. It was supposed to be a window on industry. I think the initial capital infusion was \$500,000 back in about 1975. That was the window on the industry. Now we are talking about \$5 to \$6 billion. Some window. We think that privatizing Petro-Canada will be good for the company and it will be good for Canada.

My friend from Calgary who spoke just a few minutes ago pointed out one of the very important needs of Petro-Canada, and that is a cash infusion. We cannot keep injecting new government capital into that corporation. The people of Canada now know that the government—

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): They don't need money.

Mr. Friesen: The member for South West Nova says they do not need money. Tell Bill Hopper they do not need the money. They need the money. The people of Canada know the Government of Canada does not have the cash to throw into that corporation. However, if we do privatize it, if we allow the people of Canada to buy shares, there will be a fresh infusion of cash into that corporation that it could not get any other way.

I want to ask members opposite a very simple question. What is it that creates this marvellous transformation of a company that if it is a Crown corporation, a government-owned corporation, what is it that creates this great transformation of humanity that makes it so much better if the management of the corporation are all of a sudden government employees? Why are government employees running a corporation so much better than private employees who are subject to a board of directors elected by the company, by the shareholders? What is it that makes the president or the board of directors of a government-owned corporation so much more humane, so much more imaginative, so much more generous than if it were a privately-owned corporation?

Does some magical thing take place when that person takes his orders from the government? Would it not be better to have a company like this removed from the government agenda and let it run its own agenda based on the marketplace, without political input, or in some cases political interference?

Would it not be better to have it market driven and let its agenda be driven by the marketplace rather than by an agenda of a political party, whatever political party is in office? Would it not be a more wholesome company if it were driven that way, rather than by the agenda of some people who are elected and have their own agendas rather than a market driven agenda?