

Mr. Nystrom: —in England they are privatizing the prisons. That might be the reason why the Prime Minister decided to move the penitentiary from your riding to Manicouagan.

Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member said that I questioned the management of Bombardier. It was not me: maybe some other Members did, but I never questioned it.

I often asked questions like: Did Bombardier give any assurance they will protect the jobs presently in Montreal? Do we have guarantees for the technology and so on? These are important questions for the workers at Canadair, in Montreal and elsewhere in Quebec.

We need time to ask important questions and the Hon. Member for Montreal East agrees with me. This afternoon I asked precisely that kind of questions and I know I have the support of all the workers, men and women.

● (1630)

[English]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, the proposed sale of Canadair which we are now discussing and the earlier sale of de Havilland are perfect examples of the blind commitment of the Conservative Government to its free enterprise ideology that ignores completely the question of what is best for Canadians. We in Canada have hundreds, if not several thousands, of Crown corporations, not only at the federal Government level but also at the provincial Government level. Conservative Members seem to suggest that somehow Crown corporations are useless and inefficient. They seem to suggest that we do not need them and that we should be rid of them as quickly as possible. I remind them that most of the existing Crown corporations were created by Governments at the federal and provincial levels. They were not socialist Governments or wild eyed Governments. They were Conservative, Liberal, Social Credit, PQ, and occasionally CCF or NDP Governments.

I should like to put on record some examples of what I am saying.

Mr. Riis: Pacific Western Airlines.

Mr. Orlikow: As the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) reminds me, the Conservative Government of Alberta under Premier Lockheed bought 100 per cent control of Pacific Western Airlines.

Mr. Riis: And now CP.

Mr. Orlikow: Yes, apparently Pacific Western Airlines is to purchase CP Air. In any event, it was done by the Conservative Government of that province to keep control in Alberta. It was an important consideration.

Also I remind them that the Conservative Prime Minister of Canada, R. B. Bennett, established the Canadian Broadcasting

Canadair Limited Divestiture Act

Corporation as a Crown corporation. In 1908, the Conservative Premier of the Province of Manitoba, Sir Rodmond Roblin, the grandfather of a later Premier, Duff Roblin, who is now a Senator, established the Manitoba Telephone system as a publicly owned Crown corporation. A Conservative Government of Ontario established Ontario Hydro as a Crown corporation. A Social Credit Government of British Columbia, when W. A. C. Bennett was Premier, established B.C. Hydro and B.C. Rail as publicly owned Crown corporations. It was a Liberal Government of Quebec with Mr. Lesage as Premier which bought out private power companies and established Quebec Hydro as a Crown corporation.

Mr. Riis: What about Alberta Telephone?

Mr. Orlikow: I could go on and on. My colleague reminds me of Alberta Telephone. There was also Saskatchewan Telephone.

Why did these various Governments establish Crown corporations? They established them because there was a need for certain types of services. The private sector did not believe it would realize a profit from the services and was not interested or ready to go into those fields. Therefore Governments established the hundreds, if not thousands, of Crown corporations now existing in Canada.

I am not saying that all those Crown corporations are now necessary. I am not saying that all of them are operating as efficiently as they should be. They are like any other public or private organization. Sometimes they are not performing their functions as they should. However, to sell off federal Crown corporations, not because they have outlived their usefulness or because they are not being operated efficiently, is simply to follow an ideological view not based upon reality.

In the establishment and operation of Canadian Crown corporations we have historically done things in a way which is very different from the way they were done in the United States because our needs and abilities are different. Hon. Members opposite have suggested that socialists are so in favour of public ownership we are critical of all private sector operations. It is not true. It is not the position of the New Democratic Party of Canada. It is not the position of all Social Democratic Parties in countries throughout the world. This is particularly so in western Canada where its Social Democratic Parties are allied with our Party. As is the case with our Party, they belong to Socialists International. They have also accepted the reality that, for the foreseeable future, their countries will operate with a mixture of public and private ownership. Indeed, in Sweden, where the Social Democratic Party has governed for 50 of the last 60 years, there is much less public ownership than in Canada. That is because their needs are different from ours and they have not moved as quickly into public ownership as we have, whatever Government has been in office nationally or provincially.