

Air Canada

Mr. Keeper: You are persuaded.

Mr. Grisé: The Member was very persuasive, Madam Speaker, especially when he related the privatization of Air Canada to free trade and that it would have an impact on free trade. I doubt that. The Hon. Member said that the privatization of Air Canada would make our country more dependent on the United States of America. I do not know how he can relate the two.

[*Translation*]

Similarly, when he talks about deregulation in other sectors and affirms this has an exceedingly negative impact on Canadian unity and Canadian sovereignty, how is it, Madam Speaker, that we have not lost anything?

[*English*]

When we privatized Canadair we sold it to Bombardier, but I do not believe we lost our sovereignty then. The Hon. Member could ask the workforce of Bombardier in Montreal if they lost their sovereignty on the issue. I do not believe so. I am anxious to have the comments of the Hon. Member on that matter.

The Member said the national airline might phase out or give up service. He said it would not be a nationwide airline because of privatization. Let me ask the Hon. Member about Canadian Airlines International. As far as I am concerned that company is private. What about Wardair? The Hon. Member should know better than I about these things. He is from western Canada, and I understand that Wardair's head office is in western Canada. Are the people working for Wardair not Canadian any more? Are they losing their sovereignty? He said it is not good for the economy and people will lose their jobs. He said deregulation is very bad.

Mr. Belsher: That is the rationale of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Grisé: Of course, it is the New Democratic Party's rationale. The New Democrats are so rational and are so democratic that, Madam Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, at a press conference at three o'clock this afternoon, imposed a candidate in the riding of Chambly which I represent and which I am very proud to represent, but the candidate does not even live in the riding. There was no consultation with the population of Chambly. The New Democrats decided this afternoon in the name of great democracy in Canada to impose on the great Canadians in my riding of Chambly a candidate from outside of the riding. The Hon. Member can tell his candidate and his Leader that we will have good news for them in the next election.

● (1640)

I will return, if I may, to the comments on the privatization of Air Canada. We hear the NDP saying that those people will lose their jobs. Where is the confidence of members of the NDP in those they call ordinary Canadians, those we call great

Canadians, the people who work for Air Canada? They are proud employees. They are proud to work for Air Canada and they welcome the privatization of Air Canada because it gives them more opportunity to have a better fleet and to have more access to more markets, and eventually, of course, more business and more jobs. I would like the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) to comment on what I have just said.

Mr. Hovdebo: Madam Speaker, obviously the Hon. Member was a little confused and unable to counter the arguments I had put before him. He had to talk about his home riding to talk about democracy. I know that the New Democratic Party does not allow the placement of any candidate anywhere without the consent of the members of the Party in that community. There was an open convention.

The Hon. Member attempted to make a point about privatization, deregulation and sovereignty. The point I was making follows very closely on his remarks. In fact, his remarks point out the point I was trying to make.

We have a package here consisting of deregulation which allows privatization and Americanization, which is the alternative of free trade. Americanization, deregulation and privatization are one package which this Government is foisting on the people of Canada by the process it is going through. I recognize that it is doing it in little bits, and I recognize that the privatization of this particular corporation is just one item on the list.

Deregulation of transportation was another one. If the U.S. transportation industry had allowed it, there would have been deregulation of the movement of those corporations into Canada, but the American industry did not want to follow the regulations that presently exist in Canada. Therefore, the Government started a deregulation process which will eventually allow the intrusion of the American transportation industry into Canada.

Until the U.S. transportation industry backed off because it did not want to give up the Jones Act, it was ready to take over most of the Canadian transportation industry. I think that we were fortunate in that case. Though we cannot give the same advice to the Canadian negotiators, we were fortunate that the transportation industry of the United States was concerned about losing the Jones Act.

The Hon. Member spoke about the confidence of ordinary Canadians. We think that ordinary Canadians do have confidence. They do not need the United States as the crutch on which they will build the best economy in the world. They can do it themselves. We do not need the United States to help us build the best economy. We do not need a free trade agreement which will allow them to take over our industries and our production.

Mr. Grisé: What about the Auto Pact?