

compensation program has been negotiated and accepted by the employer and the employees of the new corporation established pursuant to section 4 of this Act.

[*Translation*]

Now, as you know, Mr. Speaker, since the outset when I was really involved in that matter, before there was a shuffling of our responsibilities, on a number of occasions I met representatives of Teleglobe employees. I also spoke with the Minister involved. I have always indicated that in the contents of the sale, in the memo of intent that is in the legislation, there were serious flaws. One concerned the monopoly and another the pension fund, especially with regard to long-time employees. And it is not acceptable that the line of thought, the philosophy of the Conservative party should be reflected here, because Conservatives want to sell and privatize all Crown Corporations without any reason whatsoever and without consideration for Government employees. It is those employees who have made that corporation profitable, so profitable in fact for the Canadian society that they have contributed for Canada as a whole significant amounts of money to our country's general revenues.

Each year, it was possible to count on significant amounts of money which could be used to reduce our deficit. Which means, Mr. Speaker, that even if this government feels that privatization is a good thing, they do not realize what they are doing.

[*English*]

This is not fair play for the worker nor for the company which bought it. The Government would be well advised to review what it had to say.

There are no provisions for ensuring in law an employee compensation package with respect to acquired pension benefits. The Government is attempting to rush this Bill through the legislative committee process and through the House of Commons, despite the fact that negotiations concerning pension benefits between Teleglobe employees, Treasury Board and Memotec are incomplete.

That is why I believe this House must support the amendment which I just brought to your attention, Mr. Speaker. What is the big rush? Is it because the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) wants about \$500 million to keep his word to the Canadian public? Is that what is motivating this big rush? Is that what allowed the legislative committee to decide it would rush this whole thing through in one day? It took a conscientious and concerned Member of the Liberal Party to say "Wow. Hold back. We are not rushing this thing through. These are workers who built this marvellous company for Canada. This is our only international voice in the telecommunications world. We are proud that we have been able to work compatibly with communications companies around the world and across our land". But the committee and the Minister decided to rush the whole thing through without giving careful consideration to all the players in the game. This is an indication of the ridiculous language, the hyperbole, which the Government has been so busy using by saying, "Yes,

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we are great at consultation. We believe we should talk things through. We listen". But in reality the Government goes its merry way and listens with blocked ears. The Government is like the three monkeys: see not, hear not and say nothing.

I would like to recommend strongly that the Minister go back to the drawing board. I would recommend that the Minister, with the good will and intent demonstrated by Memotec, with the concerned interest and good will of all the employees—and by the way, Mr. Speaker—

[*Translation*]

I suggest we should commend these working men and women and tell them: Come on, you have done your duty, you have decided to become the mouthpieces of all working men and women, while trying to save your skins because the Government has forgotten to balance things out for all current Teleglobe workers. That is the reason why I congratulate the Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin).

[*English*]

—for the excellent work he was able to do together with the employees, in the interest of Memotec and of all Canadians to ensure that when you are about to change the rules of the game you let everybody know. If the chief actuary's figures were prepared to use for Canadian Arsenals are no longer relevant, that should have been public knowledge. If the Government is going to change the money to be vested into the private plan, that should have been public knowledge. Everyone should have been playing fair ball in this game.

• (1230)

This is obviously a Government that is not so good at keeping its promises. It is great at using words and the fanciest of its rhetoric is enough to turn my stomach at times.

Will the company be able to make up this kind of money? Will it be secured? If it needs continued viability, how can we ensure that it gets it? The request of the employees was that the Government use the same assumptions that were used for Canadian Arsenals.

[*Translation*]

The employees had asked you to use, when computing the amounts of these transfers, the same actuarial assumptions as those which had been used for Canadian Arsenal employees, but you decided against it. They want the same treatment, which was refused to them, but I think it is their right. Back to square one, I am sorry. Fairness is of primary importance, and this matter must be settled before we start considering this bill.

[*English*]

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It would be most inappropriate to let this moment pass without commenting on the eloquent and excellent speech that has just been given by the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone). It has simply taken us away on wings of destiny, seeking justice and truth—