

Time Allocation

would have liked Air Canada to be completely privatized, therefore they are unhappy that the Government is only going to privatize 45 per cent. Those who are opposed to privatization still have to fight because 45 per cent will be privatized.

This is not the manner in which to conduct the affairs of an orderly House of Commons in the British tradition. The British parliamentary system proceeds in a more orderly fashion than this House of Commons. It is not because perhaps Members are tired because they were called back on August 11 last year. In case some Canadians are not aware, Members have been here for five days a week, and the House sits for five days a week. Most of the time I am here five days of the week. Some other Members may not be for other reasons, but that is their privilege.

We have been here since August 11, 1987, and the end of the term may come soon, depending on the Gallup poll next week, which I am ready to bet will be excellent. The chairman of the national Liberal caucus and I are good friends, and I am sure he knows from the news we get that the Gallup will be quite devastating again this week, so that means that the election may be postponed again. I am ready to bet that the Gallup will be extremely good.

Mr. Gauthier: For us.

Mr. Prud'homme: Very good for us, of course, but I do not brag about it. It is a fact of life.

One thing that is sure is that members of the Government, at the very end of a normal term of office, want to stampede the House by saying that they are tired, they are fed up, and they want to go and work on their re-election plan. After all, we are not all here with the wish to be defeated, so we have to return to our ridings. But we are kept here with all kinds of rules of the House that make no sense.

● (1620)

At the last instant in June, the Government comes in with a vast plan of action, as if it was at the beginning of its term. It is almost a Speech from the Throne the Government is proposing to us. We were told we must pass this before the end of June, otherwise we will sit all summer. Well, I do not want to sit all summer but if such is to be the case, we will sit this summer. I like the company of my colleagues. I see my friend, the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon). I am sure he will be here and I will be here and we will have plenty of time to continue our good acquaintance if we have to sit here this summer, but it makes no sense.

You are indicating to me, Madam Speaker, that I should terminate my intervention. I am sure my other colleagues will speak until the very last minute we are allowed. We object to this motion. We will vote against this call of the Government to stampede the House of Commons on a very important piece of legislation. The sacred duty of the Opposition is to oppose strongly when we see fit to oppose and to let legislation go through when we believe it is not so important that we should

fight forever. But the consequences are great with this particular piece of legislation for the various regions of this country.

People from Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver have it good, but let us consider the rest of Canada. Those people are saying that with this silly privatization they will have more difficulty travelling. What about the workers who are asking all kinds of questions? I put it to you, Madam Speaker, that seven hours of discussion is not that much of an abuse of the House of Commons. I hope my very esteemed colleague from Alberta, who is trying to tutor the House of Commons on how we should act, will revise his views and allow us to discuss this piece of legislation for a much longer time.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Madam Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to make a few remarks on the Government's motion to restrict debate on Bill C-129. Like all the other Members of my Party, I am strongly opposed to this motion to limit debate on one of the most important pieces of legislation brought before the House this spring. Bill C-129 proposes to privatize, at least partially, Air Canada, which has been in existence since 1937. It has been one of the building blocks of Canadian Confederation. It has helped tie Canada together from sea to sea. It has served the national purpose in terms of setting labour standards and serving all parts of this country.

This Government wants to privatize Air Canada. We believe that a measure as important as this deserves full debate. What we have had is seven hours of debate in which we have tried to bring forward our concerns about this measure. We believe it is a wrong measure. We believe it will be harmful to the people of Canada. We believe it deserves a full debate in the House of Commons. We have a number of arguments to bring against this measure and we would like to hear what the Government has to say in favour of the Bill. Therefore, we are strongly opposed to any measure that would close off debate.

Air Canada is a company that is well managed. Even the Government will admit that. It is a company the people wish to see retained in public ownership. Even a majority of Conservatives are supportive of the idea of the Government maintaining ownership of Air Canada. A minority of Government Members want to see it privatized. Yet, for ideological reasons, this Government wants to privatize.

I was interested to read some of the remarks made by the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart), in 1981. We heard him this morning trying to backtrack on what he said then.

I refuse to worship at the throne of the emperor from Mount Royal who, in turn, worships at the throne of Castro, Galbraith, Mao and Lasky.

Of course, when he is talking about the emperor from Mount Royal, he is talking about former Prime Minister Trudeau. We know what emperor he is worshipping, but at whose throne does the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) worship? He worships at the throne of Margaret Thatcher, Bill