

Government Orders

the private sector, then the public is told: "You public just withdraw. We will let the private sector milk that particular cow now". That is wrong. That is ideologically wrong and we resent it. That is not good public policy. We resent the fact that investments made by Canadians—

Ms. Campbell: Nobody has \$250 million—

Mr. Caccia: The Minister of Justice has something to say and I will be very glad to listen to her full statement, later on in the debate. I have a great respect for her and I will be glad to hear what she has to say on the question of public and private ownership.

All I can say to the minister is that to us it seems a disgrace. It is shameful to see what is being proposed by this bill and to examine also what has happened over the last five or six years under the Tory regime. It has disregarded the public and the Canadian interest in a number of sectors. It has also denied the opportunity to the public of being involved in the ownership of corporations which could be profitable in the name of the public.

I know that my time is up, Madam Speaker, and I appreciate your patience.

Nowhere can the Tories claim there is a precedent or proof that one cannot be profitable in the public name, in public ownership. What we are witnessing here is a distortion and perversion of the public interest. It is not right to sell public ownership to the private sector when there is an opportunity for the public to be protected and, as well, to make a profit which the public deserves to receive.

Therefore, for these reasons—and I am glad that we have speakers on our side here today—we can only reprimand the government very deeply and guarantee that this will be one of the strong items raised in Toronto during the next election campaign.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa): Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on what was said by my opposition colleague, who accused our Conservative government of dismantling and destroying public corporations, and say that what we are dismantling is this empire the Liberals built and the underlying philosophy that helped to stifle private enterprise. I am surprised to see he is

supported by some of his colleagues who have been extremely successful in the private sector and who certainly contributed— Yes, you, my dear colleague—who contributed to the economy of this beautiful country of ours. I believe that the Liberals went wrong when they persisted in the kind of attitude that was extremely useful in the immediate postwar context, when it was necessary for the government to take on far broader responsibilities. It is time the Liberals realized that attitudes have changed and that the government is no longer expected to get involved in every single social and economic sector, nor should it.

I think the Liberals' policy of centralization has tended to stifle private initiative. To centralize means to homogenize. This may have had its uses at a given time, except that eventually, we must acknowledge the existence of individual differences and allow the expression of those differences. Private businesses are the ideal vehicle for individual expression and initiative. In Montreal North, in my riding, since a number of vast empires built by Liberal ideologues have been privatized, employment opportunities and the market share of our private businesses have increased, and I am thinking of Canadianair, Teleglobe and Air Canada. Privatization has been instrumental in updating operations and restructuring resources. As you know, centralization means more bureaucracy, and that is what I wanted to point out, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, I understand the hon. member's concern and why she feels she has to defend this bill. As a government member, it is her duty to blame the Liberal Party and the Liberal government, but I want to point out that it was the Liberal government at the time that purchased the Toronto Harbour front Corporation and Canada Harbour Place in Vancouver, and we did this in the public interest. I realize, we do not see eye to eye on the government's role in protecting the public interest.

• (1030)

[*English*]

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, the member for Davenport's defence of public enterprise was most rewarding to hear from this side of the House, knowing that it sometimes took a lot of pressure from this side of the House to have the other