

of the day and that the Speaker himself is aware of my request and will hear me at 3 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I thank the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) for his comments. There has been indeed an agreement between the various parties and the Chair and applications under Standing Order 29 will be heard after the Oral Question Period.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED REORGANIZATION AND DIVESTITURE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Monday, April 11, consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-121, an Act to authorize the reorganization and divestiture of Eldorado Nuclear Limited and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I wish to inform the House that because of the Ministerial statement, Government Orders will be extended by 47 minutes beginning at one o'clock p.m.

● (1240)

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, as I was saying yesterday on debate on this Bill, there is ample evidence to show that in most cases privatizers are free-loaders and that without public investment the private corporate sector will not invest. That was amplified again this morning in the case of the announcement concerning Air Canada.

One can ask how the employees in the uranium industry feel about this. I refer to the employees of Eldorado Nuclear Limited and the employees of the Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation which corporations are to merge. There are two major unions involved in this matter. The union of energy and chemical workers represents the employees at Cluff Lake mine in northern Saskatchewan in which SMDC holds a minority share. The steelworkers represent employees at the Key Lake mine in which both SMDC and Eldorado have a share and the Rabbit Lake mine. Both mines are in northern Saskatchewan. There are three steelworkers' locals involved in Eldorado at Port Hope.

Both these unions have been the subject of glowing testimonials by the former Minister of State for Privatization concerning the prospects of the new company, in particular the shareholdings which will go to them. This is a promise which is quite vague. Despite it the unions and employees concerned are implacably opposed to the privatization of these companies. There are many good reasons for this.

Eldorado Nuclear Limited

The Canadian labour movement was four-square in its support of the disarmament and non-proliferation treaty. It has been four-square in its support of full and adequate environmental, safety and health concerns. Members of the labour movement believe, and I think with justification, that these matters are in jeopardy or will receive less attention by a privately owned company.

In this respect one has only to look at what happened in Uranium City and how a policy for one-industry towns is desperately overdue. It is not too late in the uranium industry and in a number of others for a special fund to be established which would see so many dollars per tonne, per kilogram or pound of production out of all production set aside. When an ore body is gone in 20 years, 30 years, or 40 years the community in which it existed, all the businesses, homes and employees will be protected. These funds would be for retraining, for moving expenses and early retirement. People could be paid for the businesses which they will lose and for the homes which are boarded up. Such a national policy is long overdue. We need only look to Uranium City to see the terrible situation which transpired there.

Since this is such a bad Bill I therefore wish to move an amendment as follows:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor: "Bill C-121, an Act to authorize the reorganization and divestiture of Eldorado Nuclear Limited and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence."

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Benjamin: Debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair recognizes the Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) on debate.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, I rise to support the amendment proposed by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). I do so even more determinedly than in the early stages of the debate, given the announcement by the Government today about its intention to begin the privatization of Air Canada. That move is just one other indication of the determination of the Government to continue at an accelerated pace its program of privatization.

It is a program based not on whether Crown corporations are operating efficiently, or on meeting the needs of the people in the areas in which they operate, or on an examination of the reasons former Governments established these Crown corporations, but rather on the Government's rigid, ideological belief that anything private industry does will operate better, more