

someone other than the Government. How can the Government give a guarantee and at the same time relinquish control, unless it is willing to do what it was willing to do for Montreal, and that is to put legislative guarantees in for Manitoba and Winnipeg? I ask the Deputy Prime Minister why is he not willing to do that for Manitoba? Is Manitoba to be betrayed again like it was with the CF-18?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is referring to an age-old problem where the Liberal Government of the day removed a large installation from Winnipeg, which was an Air Canada installation. Since that time there has been a certain amount of nervousness, and a lot of nervousness from the New Democratic Party because it is running third, I understand, in Manitoba. So it is trying to engage in cheap politics here on the floor of the House of Commons. If the Hon. Member wants to fight the provincial election in Manitoba, he should go back there and do it.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister may want to make fun of the anxiety that all Manitobans have about the future of Winnipeg in the aerospace industry, but it is a legitimate anxiety. He is right, it does go back to the Liberals. For that matter, so does privatization of Air Canada. But two rights don't make a wrong.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blaikie: Or two wrongs don't make a right. I am sorry.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: They do not make a question, either. The Hon. Member will put his question.

Mr. Blaikie: They all knew what I meant, Mr. Speaker. What I meant was that the Liberals and the Conservatives have a record of shafting Winnipeg when it comes to jobs in the aerospace industry. It appears the Deputy Prime Minister did not give a guarantee to Gary Filmon any more than he gave a guarantee to this House. The only guarantee that Manitobans will accept will be a legislative guarantee. Until that guarantee is forthcoming, we know the Conservatives are setting Winnipeg up to be shafted once again.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the only anxiety quite obvious is the anxiety of the New Democratic Party in losing the provincial election in the Province of Manitoba. That is quite clear. It is engaged in an act of desperation to use any cheap political trick to try to enhance its popularity.

Oral Questions

DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF CORPORATION

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, both the Deputy Prime Minister and the Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill are trying to fly on one wing. Everyone knows the only one soaring in Manitoba is Sharon Carstairs.

Ms. Copps: Right on!

Mr. Tobin: Can the Deputy Prime Minister confirm today in the House the suggestion he made when he announced the Air Canada sale, that is, that the Chairman of the Board of Air Canada, who, after the first 45 per cent of the shares are made private, shall be directed by the Government to vote the majority shares in the same way as a majority of the minority shareholders, that the Government and Air Canada management shall not exercise their control block but rather shall take direction from the private shareholders? Could he confirm that today in the House?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should know that under the Canada Business Corporations Act, all directors, no matter who they are appointed by, must act in the best interests of the company and all shareholders. The Government's commitment not to intervene simply re-enforces our intention to ensure that the Canada Business Corporations Act is complied with.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for his convoluted but nevertheless straight answer. What the Deputy Prime Minister is now telling the House is that neither the Government, nor Air Canada management, who shall act under direction of the minority private shareholders, can give any assurances to anybody anywhere, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal or Stephenville, Newfoundland, which now has an Air Canada service.

Why does the Deputy Prime Minister continue to interfere in the Manitoba election campaign by making statements that cannot be substantiated and do not reflect the fact of the privatization plan announced by the Government? Why is he doing that?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Very simply, Mr. Speaker, for this reason. In previous privatization initiatives there have been conditions that have been attached to the privatization, whether it has to do with official languages or with certain operations of the company. That becomes part of the legislation and/or the Articles of Incorporation. Clearly in the case of Canadair there were conditions. In the case of de Havilland there were conditions. In the case of Fisheries Products International there were conditions. In the case of Eldorado Nuclear there were conditions.