

**Mr. Ouellet:** I remind the Hon. Member that this very viable Canadian company is now an American company. When things get tough, I want to see the Hon. Member come back and tell us what that American company will do to the workers.

**Mr. McDermid:** Who owns the technology?

**Mr. Ouellet:** The other point he raised concerns the number of Crown corporations. Yes, the Liberal Government created a number of Crown corporations, all of which were legitimate, all serving a useful and important role.

**Mr. McDermid:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Ouellet:** From CBC, to Air Canada, to Teleglobe, to a number of Crown corporations all across the country, like the Cape Breton Development Corporation. Where private sector business did not create the jobs and was not there to take the initiative, the Liberal Government created Crown corporations to ensure employment in every region of Canada, particularly in areas where the private sector will never go.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérin:** Madam Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Does the Hon. Member rise in debate?

**Mr. Gérin:** No, Madam Speaker, I simply wanted to make a comment on the speech—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Order, please. The period for questions and—

**Mr. Gérin:** I might add, Madam—

**Mr. Ouellet:** No, it is over.

**Mr. Gérin:** It would not have been a favourable comment.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Have respect for the Chair.

**Mr. Gérin:** What a sophisticated speech!

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** I would ask the Hon. Member to resume his seat. Is the House ready for the question?

[English]

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Madam Speaker, a number of my colleagues have pointed out some of the details that need to be considered in this divestiture of the Crown corporation. I want to comment on the direction the Government is taking in the divestiture of Crown corporations. We oppose this Bill for a number of specific reasons that do not necessarily relate to the particular Crown corporation in question but rather, relate to the policy and philosophy of the Government in its approach to privatization.

Its approach seems to be based on ideology that is quite different from the Canadian tradition with respect to Crown

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corporations. The provincial and federal tradition has been to deal with Crown corporations as part of the economy of the country. For example, that tradition has led to a mixed economy in Canada because Crown corporations have been able to assist the development of private corporations.

Previous Conservative Governments contributed a great deal to that mixed economy through the process of establishing Crown corporations. For example, the economy of the entire nation was developed as a result of the Conservative Government's establishment of Canadian National Railways, a Crown corporation. It contributed to the development of the manufacturing industries of Ontario and Quebec by being able to deliver the resources of other regions of Canada to those industries.

The Conservative Government is breaking a tradition that Conservatives themselves established, and it has not explained how the ideological reasons behind this decision will help develop the country.

Furthermore, this divestiture is against the mandate that it requested during the election in September, 1984. At that time, the Conservatives sought and received a mandate not to sell corporations like Canadair and de Havilland because they are key to an aerospace industry that the Conservatives wanted in Canada. In a press release on August 27, 1984—one week before the election—the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) stated that this organization would be responsible for the aerospace strategy, so that Canadair and de Havilland will become commercially viable and will continue to be so into the next century. When the Government was elected, its mandate was not to divest itself of the aerospace industry and put it into private hands, but to establish it as a viable industry that would take us into the next century.

It should be noted that even the ideological reasons behind this divestiture are confusing. The Government does not seem to be consistent in how it will treat the Crown corporations that it is selling. The Government will use any excuse, regardless of whether it makes sense, as a basis for its divestiture of these Crown corporations.

Crown corporations have been established in Canada as instruments of public policy. Every Crown corporation has been established for good reasons such as economic development, job preservation and regional job development. While there are many examples of poorly operating Crown corporations, the reasons for that include the unfortunate policy of former Liberal and Conservative Governments over the years that these Crown corporations should be free-standing and at arm's length from the federal Government once they have been established. The Crown corporations seemed to take on a life of their own, which was not necessarily the objective when they were originally established. Therefore, rather than continuing to be instruments of public policy, Crown corporations had a tendency to become commercial enterprises bringing no basic benefit to the country. If that happens and if it is impossible to change the direction of those corporations, then I, and I suppose my Party, have no real quarrel with the idea of selling