

*Adjournment Debate*

The CITT's inquiry gave interested parties every opportunity to make their views known. Since the CITT report was tabled in March of this year there has been ample time for industry to register its objections. The government has received additional comments from both the textile and apparel industries and officials have carefully considered them in their review of the CITT's recommendations. At the request of the textile and apparel industries, the Minister of Finance announced in July that the government's final response to the CITT recommendations will be made in the context of decisions to be taken in the current round of multilateral trade negotiations still under way.

I want to thank the hon. member again for his continued interest in this subject.

\* \* \*

**AIR CANADA**

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, when I rose in this House two weeks ago, I had hoped that somehow this government would be able to do something about another disaster that had befallen Atlantic Canadians.

The policies of this government have been less than kind to my region. The abandonment of the fisheries, the economic recession, taxes, taxes, and more taxes—coupled of course with the worst tax of all, the GST—rising unemployment, escalating bankruptcies, record receiverships and even more lay-offs.

When it seemed that nearly all the candles were out in the Atlantic region, the government's policies snuffed out yet more. Air Canada, this government's privatization wonder child, announced that two reservation centres will be closed at the cost of at least 150 jobs in the metropolitan area of Halifax. At that time I asked the Minister of Transport to use his considerable influence with Air Canada's board to revoke its decision to close Air Canada's reservation centre in both the city of Halifax and at the Halifax airport.

The minister replied by saying:

—Air Canada is now a public corporation. The shares are widely held.

I think the last thing in the world the shareholders of Air Canada want is the government telling it which reservation counters to keep open and which ones to close.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing the results of this kind of policy. The government's sell-all mentality has reduced it to a mechanism which seems to only serve Canadians by raising taxes. This of course is a service that Canadians are not too fond of. This government has become little more than a taxation office.

This government has been unable to come forward with direction or vision. It failed with free trade. It has failed with constitutional reform. It failed with protecting women. It has failed with providing child care. It has failed with a toothless environmental plan. Now it has failed with the privatization policy.

Each and every one of these policies has led to the same thing, most particularly in my region of the country, unemployment and higher taxes.

There are Air Canada personnel in Halifax with 16 years experience who have been told that their seniority is marginal, after 16 years of service to an area. We know that the technology is available. We know that the phone calls could be made to anywhere from anywhere. Why do the jobs have to be in Toronto instead of in Halifax?

One of the things, and I heard this discussion in the Halifax airport not too long ago, has to do with the particular regional flavour in the Atlantic. As I heard one person say—and I will not attempt to reproduce the accent but if my colleague, the member for Dartmouth, or one of my colleagues from Newfoundland were here I think you could understand—that if people from their particular areas call up, sometimes an ear that does not come from the Atlantic may have some difficulty in comprehending that this person wants to fly from Gander to Deer Lake, or from Moncton to Charlottetown. They will not understand the particular sensitivities and situations of Atlantic Canadians and that a service that supposedly is set up to care for the public will become much less caring and much less a benefit to the people it is supposed to serve.

We have all had experiences good and bad with airlines. But I remember in particular assistance that I have received from the people in reservations at Air Canada. That is the number you call. I was bringing a sick relative home from a fairly long trip. I reached the Halifax office from my out-of-town departure point, told them what the problem was, said I had no idea how serious the illness was, and those Air Canada personnel handled the situation so that the person who was ill was treated with the greatest kindness. Everything possible