

### *Organized Crime*

matter of blind ideology to privatize for the sake of privatization without looking at the alternatives or at whether it is even feasible? As I said at the outset, the markets are being decidedly cool at the thought of this offering.

To return to the solutions of the previous Liberal Government, in 1977 this House passed the Air Canada Act under which the corporation now operates. That Act was in response to the Estey Commission of Inquiry which had made certain recommendations. That commission proposed that Air Canada be given the legal and corporate structure, the flexibility, and the financing to operate on a commercial basis on the same footing as its competitors in Canada and abroad. Air Canada was refinanced in 1977 with a debt equity ratio equivalent to that of other major North American airlines.

There is no question that Air Canada requires financing to modernize its fleet, but is privatization the best way to ensure that financing? From the cool reaction of the markets it does not appear likely. Neither is there any evidence that the Government has carefully studied the solutions of the past to see whether they might again be used.

Air Canada does need billions of dollars to finance new aircraft. In the short term it probably has a need for some \$300 million to start purchasing. However, the situation is urgent now only because the Government, which has been in power for four years, has done nothing. It has considered, but has failed to act to assist Air Canada. This is yet another example of the Government ruminating for almost four years and then acting in haste to produce the ill-considered motion before us which will not assist Air Canada.

We have clearly seen that the response in the markets is that this Bill is the worst of both worlds. It is not an attractive investment opportunity. In any case, it is very difficult to get people to invest in airlines at the moment, largely because of the chaos in the United States as a result of deregulation there.

Therefore, this Bill is ill-considered and is not going to achieve the Government's goal of recapitalizing Air Canada. There are better ways of assisting Air Canada to buy the necessary new equipment and continue to be profitable as it has been in the past.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Danis):** It being two o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

• (1400)

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--MOTIONS**

[English]

### **ORGANIZED CRIME**

#### **ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE**

**Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity)** moved:

That a Special joint Committee be appointed to act as a Parliamentary Task Force to investigate and report upon the extent to which organized crime is connected to the legislative, judicial and administrative institutions of Canadian society;

That the committee be composed of not more than 15 Members to be named at a later date;

That the committee shall have all of the powers given to Standing Committees by Standing Order 96(1);

That the committee have the power to retain the services of professional, technical and clerical staff as may be deemed necessary;

That the committee have the power to adjourn or travel from place to place inside Canada and that, when deemed necessary, the required staff accompany the committee; and

That a message be sent to the Senate praying their Honours to unite with this House for this purpose.

She said: Mr. Speaker, last year I proposed a motion which suggested that a royal commission be appointed to examine various aspects of organized crime. The motion was voted on but defeated. Some of those who spoke on the motion suggested that a royal commission would be too expensive. Some of the government Members had speeches that were extraordinarily similar. One might even suspect they had all been written by the same hand. The speeches indicated that the Department of Justice had absolutely everything in hand and there was essentially very little problem.

So I have come back today with a new motion to take care of the criticism of costs. I have scaled this down so that instead of a royal commission, I am proposing a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons.

May I also point out that some of the Members who spoke on my previous motion estimated the cost of organized crime in our society in Canada as being up to \$10 billion a year. One would think that to counter that, the costs of a commission might be a very good investment.

The second round of criticism was that the new legislation being brought in by the Government would deal much more effectively with organized crime. Not all the legislation talked about is here yet. Nevertheless, since I have faith, I am concentrating this motion on the extent to which organized crime is connected to the legislative, judicial and administrative institutions of Canadian society.

The definition in Canada of organized crime, I believe, is two or more persons consorting together on a continuing basis to participate in illegal activities either directly or indirectly for gain. Organized crime, as we know, has no ethnicity. Organized crime can involve people of many ethnic origins. What I want to talk about today is the invasion by organized crime of legitimate business, the attempts to infiltrate members of organized crime into situations where they can have control, be it unions, the judiciary, the police and, of course, political office.

I would suggest that an examination of these matters can only be helpful if properly done, with careful rules of evidence, of course. No one would want to see a McCarthy-type