

*Canadian Arsenals Limited*

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those in favour please say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those opposed please say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** In my opinion the yeas have it.

*And more than five Members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Pursuant to Standing Order 114(11), the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Since Motion No. 3 is consequential to Motion No. 1, a vote on Motion No. 1 will apply as per the Speaker's ruling. A vote on Motion No. 1 will dispose of Motion No. 2.

Motions Nos. 4 and 5 are identical. The Chair will select one.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe you also have to take a vote on Motion No. 2 which has not been covered since it is not established whether or not the full House on Monday will support Motion No. 1. As I understand it, since this has not—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. We will do that when there is a deferred division. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) should realize that once we have gone through all the debates on Monday, or whenever we are finished with the debate, we will do that.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Motion No. 2 will be voted on, Mr. Speaker?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Yes.

**Mr. Cassidy:** May I rise to move—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please.

I have selected Motion No. 4.

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre)** moved:

That Bill C-87, be amended in Clause 12 by striking out lines 35 to 37 at page 5 and substituting the following therefor:

"12. This Act shall come into force after December 31, 1987, on a date to be fixed by proclamation."

He said: Mr. Speaker, the Bill as it stands right now calls for it to come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation. The Government is saying that there are no problems left with this particular act of privatization that deserve to be resolved. In particular, the Government is saying that despite the protests which have been expressed right up until today by the

work force of Canadian Arsenals who unwillingly, find themselves being privatized by this Bill, the Government sees no problem or any problems yet to be resolved. The Parliamentary Secretary is paying some attention. Let me suggest to him that one might be critical and say that a hoist or a deferral until December, 1987 is not particularly fair to SNC, which is, after all, hoping to get going with this new acquisition. The Minister does not look like a real Tory because his suit is not blue.

● (1500)

The problems which exist here are not related to SNC. SNC, to some extent, is an unwilling and hapless victim of the Government's mismanagement of this act of privatization. The Minister and the Government must act differently if they intend to continue with the privatization and get co-operation. After this experience, when employees are affected, rather than looking for ways to co-operate with the Government's intention, which the Government does have the parliamentary majority to put into law, people will drag their heels. In this particular case that was not at issue because there was no effective consultation for the longest time with the workforce and the unions affected.

If anyone wants to complain about delay, as they have to me, they should look at the Government's record on this issue. The announcement of the intention to privatize Canadian Arsenals was made in the Budget on May 23. Bids were submitted and received on August 9. There followed a bidding war in which the Government tried to get the preferred bidders to up the ante, a process from which SNC eventually emerged with the Government's approval. It was not until early December that the Government announced that it intended to act and introduced the privatization Bill in the House of Commons.

I received anxious submissions from SNC last November and December asking what the NDP could do in order to expedite the Bill, as they really wanted to have it passed. I had to tell them that there was nothing I could do because the carriage of the Bill was in the hands of the Government. I suggested that the people from SNC should sit down immediately with the representatives of the workers involved to start to iron out the problems. I warned them that if they could resolve the concerns of the workforce, it would certainly help our Party to be a good deal more co-operative with regard to getting the Bill passed.

That, in fact, did not occur. SNC finally got around to talking with the union, but the Government tried its best to avoid having any meaningful discussions. We have, therefore, the spectacle of legislated amendments on an absolutely essential part of the process. The legislated protection for pension rights, which employees have worked for up to 30 years to gain, came only as an afterthought in an amendment dated April 11, 1986, almost one full year after the original announcement of the Government's intention to sell Canadian Arsenals to the private sector.