

Air Canada

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): As I said, it was in accordance with Standing Order 75(11), which reads as follows:

When a recorded division has been demanded on any amendment proposed during the report stage of a bill, Mr. Speaker may defer the calling in of the members for the purpose of recording the "Yeas" and "Nays" until any or all subsequent amendments proposed to that bill have been considered.

A recorded division or divisions may be so deferred from sitting to sitting.

Mr. Ellis: May I ask, then, when the vote will be taken?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Look at the order paper. There are three or four amendments on it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): As the hon. member has just heard from my reading of Standing Order 75(11), the vote is deferred until any or all subsequent amendments proposed to the bill have been considered. After consultation, it has been proposed that motions Nos. 2 and 5 and motions Nos. 3 and 4 be grouped for debate and voted on separately. Is that agreeable to hon. members?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Agreed, and so ordered.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand that under Standing Order 75 (11) the division on an amendment can be deferred until any or all subsequent amendments proposed have been considered. Of course I am not saying that you should state your decision immediately, but as I understand it, and you will correct me if I am wrong, you are not now necessarily deferring this vote to another sitting, but you wish to wait until 6:30 to see how the other amendments will be discussed before determining precisely when the vote can be taken. Is this correct?

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It is precisely as the parliamentary secretary has just said—until any or all subsequent amendments have been considered. That is left to the discretion of the Chair.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I suppose you will tell us about your decision sometime later today?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): If we finish with all the amendments today, we can take the vote later this afternoon. Otherwise, it can be deferred until later still.

Mr. Pinard: Must I then take it that we shall not consider all the amendments today? Will you effectively defer the vote to another day?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member will be consulted beforehand.

[English]

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe) moved:

[Mr. Ellis.]

Motion No. 2—

That Bill C-3, an act respecting the reorganization of Air Canada, be amended in clause 7 by adding immediately after line 31 at page 5 the following new subclause:

"(11.1) Every material contract entered into between the corporation and

(a) a director or officer of the corporation, or

(b) a corporation or partnership in which a director or officer of the corporation has a material interest

is null and void."

Motion No. 5—

That Bill C-3, an act respecting the reorganization of Air Canada, be amended in clause 22

(a) by striking out line 2 at page 12 and substituting the following therefor:

"(2)(d)(ii) thereof, section 46, 111, 115,";

(b) by striking out line 5 at page 12 and substituting the following therefor:

"(10), 117(1), 118(1) to (3), 119(1),"

He said: Speaking to the two motions in my name, Nos. 2 and 5, I draw attention to the fact that these, essentially, are attempts to tighten up conditions under which the directors will be allowed to run the activities of Air Canada. If this bill is passed, we shall have established an airline which will initially have a capital of something like \$370 million, and potentially a capital of \$750 million. They also have assets worth something over \$1 billion. In short, they are an extremely large commercial concern.

● (1652)

The trustees of any corporation are the directors of that corporation. On behalf of the people of Canada, the directors of Air Canada are essentially charged with the well-being of our investment in Air Canada. We have had some unhappy instances where at one board meeting the officer in charge frankly stated that he could not keep the directors awake, they kept falling asleep. At another meeting it was also said that they tried to get everything through by at least two o'clock in the afternoon because the directors would fall asleep by that time and it was very difficult to get any of the business done. If that is so, Mr. Speaker, and bearing in mind that the widespread impression has been created that the directors of Air Canada are political hacks who are on the board—

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) seeks the floor on a point of order.

Mr. Lang: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Stevens: Yes.

Mr. Lang: Would he cite his authority for those two references? I should certainly like to check into them, to be sure they are not simply wild speculation, rumour or imagination. If the hon. member has the source, I would be pleased to have it.

Mr. Stevens: I am sure the minister would be most curious to have the source. I can assure him that the source is very bona fide.