

Air Canada

I should like to refer to a related matter dealing with Air Canada and make a comment about the quality of beef that is served on the menus of Air Canada. I am sure most hon. members appreciate the fact that I travel Air Canada considerably. Mostly every week, and sometimes every second week, I fly from Ottawa, change in Toronto and go on to Calgary. Then either by Time Air or the Greyhound bus I complete the balance of my journey to Medicine Hat. On that rather long trip I am always served at least one hot meal by Air Canada. The comment I wish to make relates to the feature dish, which is beef.

Most of the beef served on Air Canada is simulated steak. It looks like a lovely filet. All of it is produced in either Australia or New Zealand. When you cut into it, it is tough, stringy, and there is not a speck of cover fat on it. It has been frozen and it has been in transport for a long time. It is supplied under a tender system which Air Canada has been employing for some time.

I am not concerned about eating grass beef, and that is what it is. I eat grass beef all the time on my ranch, but at least my own beef has some fat cover on it. There is ample marbling within my beef, it is juicy and tender. The only difference between that home-grown grass beef and corn-fed or barley-fed beef produced in the feed lots in Canada is that it has a slightly different flavour. I am not critical of the fact that Air Canada beef is grass beef but surely, when we can produce the best beef in the world, we should be serving it properly on our own national air carrier system. I want to put in a plea that we ought to do better than we are doing now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I was wondering whether the hon. member was preaching for a call that Air Canada should buy his tender, juicy beef.

Mr. Hargrave: We will supply Air Canada any time.

An hon. Member: How about some from your riding?

Mr. Nystrom: There is lots of beef in my riding.

An hon. Member: There is more bull than beef.

Mr. Nystrom: We have some bull as well for the Conservatives, but it is a rather endangered species. Actually, we have tough old bull for the Conservatives.

I am happy to say a few words on the amendment before us today moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), in which he wants to strike out the words: "and in particular the contemplation of profit". When some Conservative members spoke today, they seemed to forget that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is referring to those words. When there is a section like this in the act, Air Canada will see as its mandate the particular objective of making a profit and seeking a profit.

I am not against profits in some industries and in some businesses. When one is dealing with a business like transpor-

tation, I do not think the primary objective of the airline should be a profit. If it is, the smaller communities will suffer. Sault Ste. Marie will suffer. The Lakehead will suffer. The smaller cities and communities across this country are going to suffer because they cannot make a profit for the company. If the objective is to make a profit, then they are not profitable parts of that enterprise and they will not receive the service to which they are entitled.

I am sure garbage collecting is not a profitable enterprise in this country, but we still have that service. There are various other services in this country which are not profitable. We have made a decision that these services are worth-while and they should be subsidized. It is done as a priority in our society. As a Crown corporation Air Canada's principal objective should not be the making of a profit. If that is its principal objective, then it will not provide service to a lot of communities in this country.

Conservative members have risen in this debate and have indicated that the New Democratic Party is speaking out of turn and is not correct. They are speaking on behalf of the big cities in this country. Only the seven or eight bigger cities in this country will have a good service, because Air Canada can be operated very profitably in those cities.

It is strange that the Conservative party is concerned about enterprise, purity, and making a profit. When other industries are in trouble, suddenly the Conservative party is not a free enterpriser and it wants a little bit of socialism. Some Conservatives often argue for more protection for a lot of the industries in Ontario. I am referring to tariffs, and I am also talking about assistance to some of the corporations in terms of tax grants. All one has to do is take a look at INCO with its socialism for the rich and free enterprise for the poor. That is the type of contradiction which is existent in the Conservative logic.

I can look out west and see how the cattle prices are dropping in Alberta. The cattlemen, who did not want to have a marketing board, are now saying that they want subsidies, support prices, and import quotas and restrictions.

Mr. Hurlburt: No we do not.

Mr. Nystrom: Now they want restrictions on beef which is coming into this country. They want some type of intervention, but they still want free enterprise. You can have one or the other, but you cannot be half pregnant.

Mr. Hurlburt: I suggest the hon. member does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. Nystrom: I suggest the Conservative party quite often is half pregnant when they make arguments in this debate and other debates.

I see the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) is present in the Chamber. He was with his leader in his riding in August. His leader was talking about how the Wheat Board should expand, but at the same time he indicated that private organizations should be given the authority and the right to sell grain