

not be cancelled. Since I have work to do both in that committee and here in respect of this bill I am at a loss as to what should be done next. I tried to phone both the chairman of the committee and the parliamentary secretary and succeeded in reaching the parliamentary secretary a few minutes before six. I informed him how I felt about this matter and suggested that I was left with no alternative, unless I was advised before this time that the committee meeting had been cancelled. If it has not been cancelled then I would ask that my motion be put.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Mr. Lapointe:** Mr. Speaker, on the point of order—

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** This is not debatable.

**Mr. Alexander:** The motion is not debatable.

**Mr. MacEachen:** This is on the point of order.

**Mr. Lapointe:** On the motion, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** I recognize the parliamentary secretary on the point of order.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lapointe:** Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to correct the facts somewhat for my hon. colleagues who will have to vote on this motion. You will easily understand, Mr. Speaker, that it was not easy to anticipate early today how long the debate would last on Bill C-12 introduced by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie). Thus, it was also difficult to anticipate how much time the hon. members would take to debate the motion relating to the legislation amended by the Senate, that is the Air Canada legislation.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, surely it is clear that this motion is not debatable.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. The parliamentary secretary is on a point of order.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but he said he was on a point of order and he is not. He is debating a motion that is not debatable.

**Mr. Alexander:** Put the motion.

**An hon. Member:** He is trying to get some information.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Would the parliamentary secretary indicate the nature of his point of order?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lapointe:** Mr. Speaker, I am merely trying to clarify the situation so that hon. members can vote advisedly on the

### *Air Canada*

motion of the hon. member. Mr. Speaker, I believe that later in the day an attempt was made to cancel the meeting planned for the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications this evening. The witnesses from Toronto and Montreal were already in Ottawa and we were unable to reach them between 5.30 and 6.30.

[English]

**An hon. Member:** He is just stalling.

**Mr. Alexander:** This is debate and he is out of order.

**Mr. Benjamin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if you are going to allow the parliamentary secretary—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I would like to listen to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lapointe).

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** He is not speaking to a point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Benjamin:** He is not on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** We have one point of order before the House at the present time and I am prepared to listen to the minister's parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Benjamin:** For how long?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lapointe:** Mr. Speaker, I was explaining that we tried in every possible way to reach the witnesses who are to appear this evening before the committee on transport and communications. Still, neither the committee chairman nor myself were able to do so and that is why we could not cancel the committee meeting this evening. I believe the hon. member who was supposed to speak when the sitting resumed tonight on the bill dealing with Air Canada could easily have done so in the 20 or 30 minutes allowed him; he could then have come to join us in committee and continued with the business at hand.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Is the House ready for the question?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I readily accept the upbraiding of the parliamentary secretary to the effect that we should have been here at 7.55 p.m. to express our views on Bill C-3. One cannot be everywhere at the same time. Before six o'clock, I told the parliamentary secretary that I had some comments to make on this bill. Mr. Speaker, if I am denied the right to speak for procedural reasons, I shall abide by your decision, but if I am still allowed to speak, I shall avail myself of that right, not to indulge in negative but rather in objective criticism. Mr. Speaker, with your permission, if I am allowed