

*Air Canada*

recognize that and it agreed to let the union speak only to try to overturn its testimony by having members of the government side put the same questions to this bogus group as were put to the unions in the morning.

I have no objections to the members of this committee. They are good people. I do not want to be condescending to them, but I do not—

**Mr. Blenkarn:** You wouldn't even question them. You wouldn't even talk to them.

**Mr. MacLellan:** That's right, because they don't have any standing. It was trumped up by the Government to override what the unions were saying.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** You're so high-handed, you wouldn't even talk to them. God, you think a lot of yourself.

**Mr. MacLellan:** It just goes to show the inferiority and insecurity of this Government, with 208 Members—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. This is only Thursday. I would hope that the Hon. Member would allow the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys to finish his speech.

**Mr. MacLellan:** This is another example of government Members not wanting to hear the truth. The truth stings their little eardrums. I will simply continue as if I had not been rudely interrupted by the Hon. Member.

In its presentation, the Air Canada Employee Ownership Committee said:

In the early summer of 1984 our committee started a campaign in Air Canada to develop awareness and interest from our fellow employees. We focused this campaign on the benefits and opportunities that privatization would present. Two years later we had received donations from over 7,500 employees.

However, the committee does not have a membership list. There could be 7,500, 750, 75 or 7 members of this committee. It is obvious that the committee was set up primarily and exclusively to try to push through the privatization of Air Canada. It is incredible that it was allotted standing by the Government before a committee when so many people in Canada were denied access to the committee.

I think the whole situation is a travesty. We are privatizing a public corporation that is already owned by the people of Canada. We are telling them how great it is that they will be able to buy shares in a company they already own. However, 25 per cent of the shares they already own will be held by non-residents. We are trying to tell Canadians that they will have lower fares when actually the experience in other countries has shown that fares have increased.

We are telling Canadians that they are going into a brave new world, probably the same brave new world that George Orwell described. The new world of deregulation and privatization is a world in which aircraft will be late, flights will be cancelled, seats will be jammed in closer to allow for more

passengers, food services will be worse, there will be over-booking and maintenance will be pushed way down on the priority list of the airline. Perhaps there will even be contracting out of maintenance, as the unions warned would happen.

Canada is a large country that needs a public airline. Air Canada has set the standard for airline services in Canada. If Air Canada is allowed to reduce its services, then of course the others will follow suit and all of them will make more money. That is what the Government thinks is great. It does not matter that the services to the public will be reduced and that the consumers will be inconvenienced. It is important, though, that some people make more money.

We have heard that most of the airlines in the world are now privatized. Why is this Government following like a bunch of lemmings, taking the Canadian public over the cliff with it, by privatizing this asset just because it has been done in other countries? This will be a day that Canadians will remember, along with the day this Bill gets Royal Assent, because this is the day the Government of Canada has disregarded the interests and jeopardized the safety of the Canadian public by throwing away the standard of airline services we have had in Canada for 51 years.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, members of the New Democratic Party have opposed this Bill from the day it was introduced. Everything we have seen and heard since then has convinced us more than ever that we were right.

We saw the spectacle of the Government imposing closure at second reading stage. We saw the spectacle of the Conservative majority members of the committee ramming through a motion that provided that all witnesses would be heard on one day. That meant the committee could not travel. That meant the number of witnesses that could be heard was very limited. That meant those witnesses who were heard were given a very short period of time.

• (1200)

I am sorry that the Parliamentary Secretary is not here because yesterday I heard him make one of the most unfair, dishonest and partisan speeches I have ever heard. He accused members of the Opposition, who wanted a longer debate on another Bill, of filibustering. He was a member of the Conservative gang who stormed the Speaker's chair, disrupted this House, kept the bells ringing for 16 days, and he has the gall to accuse Members on this side of perverting the parliamentary process and being undemocratic. He was a member of the parliamentary task force in 1980 which travelled this country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, visited almost every major city and many towns, looking into the problems of employment in the 1980s, and he has the gall to accuse Members who want the free trade committee to travel of wanting to travel so they can go fishing and have fancy meals. It takes an awful lot of gall and a big set of blinders so that he can see only what he wants to see.