

Government Orders

When one looks at it from a very substantive and practical perspective, one readily sees what a sham this really is.

As my colleagues before me have pointed out, this will allow employees the right to acquire only non-voting shares. That is a sham. Will they be able to have their members and representatives sit on the board of directors which determines the policy and direction the corporation will inevitably go? The answer is no. That in itself is a substantive and fundamental omission of the whole proposal being put forward by the government.

As my colleague from South West Nova has indicated, this is really a step in the direction of privatization. One could compare the ideologues of the Conservative Party opposite with Margaret Thatcher in Great Britain, but she did not stoop to such idiotic procedures as privatizing the post office in that country. This government is bent on following a direction whereby it would inevitably, not today but soon thereafter, privatize Canada Post Corporation.

It fails to take into consideration that Canadians do not want to have their post offices privatized. I do not think Canadians agree with the direction in which the government is proceeding. I think Canadians in rural Canada and indeed in urban Canada see this institution of Canada Post as yet another great institution of the Canadian mosaic. I believe that and my colleague from South West Nova has also alluded to that.

Unfortunately, members opposite do not give a damn about the institutions which have added strength to the way of life in Canada. I want to remind members opposite we have had examples. This is the government that said it would never privatize Air Canada. What did it do? It privatized Air Canada. This government kicked up a storm in 1983-84, as my colleague will recall, with regard to the abandonment of certain railway lines across this country. Now we are going to have a report within 48 hours that it will abandon many railroads across this country. VIA Rail has cut off its passenger service to many parts of this country when in fact the government argued many years ago it would never do that.

Canadians have grown accustomed to these institutions. They felt they were important because they added to our culture as a nation and to the Canadian mosaic. They are slowly but effectively being eroded by members

opposite. Of course the hon. member opposite speaks from his seat, as he normally does, not wishing to participate in the substance of the debate. He is only name calling from his chair, reluctant to stand in his place and defend something which is indefensible. I understand that. I understand that.

What I find hypocritical about members opposite, and particularly the one who is speaking from his seat at the moment, is the way they stand in their places and clap like wet seals when the Minister of National Defence stands in her place and tries to defend the idiotic program of a \$6 billion expenditure of public moneys on Cadillac helicopters. She does this when we have so many issues affecting Canadians today such as the student loans program which affects our students and the student summer employment program which affects young people in this country and day care or lack of day care.

• (1645)

Again, I say to the hon. member opposite, in 1984 the right hon. gentleman who sits opposite to me said with his hand in the air: "I am committed to a national child care program" only to be reaffirmed in 1986, 1988 and 1989. We have not seen one red cent for a national child care program by this government, yet it has moneys in excess of \$5.8 billion to spend on Cadillac helicopters.

This Canada Post bill fails to address the issue of services to Canadians. It fails to provide specifics with regard to share offerings. It does not say anything with regard to placing values on assets or the value of shares, nor does it protect any of its employees who are gainfully employed with Canada Post Corporation.

I have an example of a post office in my district in the town of Dominion. It is only because of the good work of the mayor of that town, Mayor Art MacDonald and the town council, whom I have worked with over the years, that we have been able to keep that post office open. This government is bent on closing post offices, services and thereby towns throughout our country.

I recall that members opposite have individuals in their midst who are experts at closing down towns. I remind you, Mr. Speaker, the impartial person who sits in the chair, that you will have to agree Schefferville was one example of shutting down a town. Now the govern-