

Eldorado Nuclear Limited

because Canadians are satisfied, deep down, that it makes sense to do certain things publicly, just as it makes sense to do certain things privately, and just as sometimes it makes sense to do things jointly between the public sector and the private sector.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, I don't want to dwell too long on the issue of Air Canada, but just the same, I think it should be said that the Prime Minister of our country made a very clear promise that Canada was not for sale and that perhaps a minority interest would be sold. Now that promise has been completely forgotten after the statement made today by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski). He made it very clear that now all Air Canada shares would be available, that privatization would allow the sale of all shares to the private sector, without any control or direction from the Government. There were no assurances that in future, we as Canadian taxpayers would be able to pressure the management of a corporation like Air Canada to provide air services to remote communities lacking transportation facilities.

Madam Speaker, the same applies to Eldorado. We will have no authority to instruct the corporation to take action in the interests of Canadian men and women and of its workers who are at risk because they work in uranium mines.

[English]

I regret the broken promises of the Government. I regret the degree to which it is now apparently moving toward Thatcherism and Reaganism, moving toward all the worst nostrums of the right wing of politics, nostrums which have been discredited in the United States and which have helped increasingly to make that country an economic weakling in the world despite the fact that it is still a superpower militarily.

We have also seen how Great Britain's employment and manufacturing bases have been undermined by the kinds of policies followed by the Government of Great Britain. Nonetheless, we are now seeing the Government here following that same course.

Canadians increasingly distrust the Government. They get calmed down for a while because the Government toes a narrow line, does not say very much and hides its true intentions. Then, all of sudden, when we see a Bill like this one on Eldorado or hear a statement like today's statement on Air Canada, the true colours of the Progressive Conservative Government come out all at once.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, that is not why Quebecers voted for the Progressive Conservative Party in 1984. At the time, Quebec voters thought the Conservatives were really progressive. Madam Speaker, you were among those Conservative candidates who joined the Progressive Conservative Party because they thought it was really a progressive party. It isn't. It is clear, Madam Speaker, that the Conservatives want to impose right wing policies. They want to impose policies borrowed

from President Ronald Reagan in United States and Mrs. Thatcher in Great Britain, policies that run counter to the opinions of Canadian men and women. That is why, Madam Speaker, we are in favour of applying a six-month hoist to the proposed legislation on Eldorado Nuclear Limited. We want discussion and debate in the House on privatization policies before proceeding with a measure like the privatization of Eldorado. Now that the Government has started to privatize big corporations like Air Canada, will Petro-Canada and the CBC be next? I really don't know. In any case the Government is clearly taking another step backward in terms of the progressive policies sought by Canadian men and women across this country.

• (1620)

[English]

Mr. Schellenberger: Madam Speaker, does the Hon. Member think it is a good idea for employees of a Crown corporation to have some ownership in that corporation, which is one of the proposed ways of privatizing Crown corporations?

Mr. Cassidy: Madam Speaker, the Liberal Government prior to 1984 and the Conservative Government since 1984 had the opportunity to democratize and open up the management of Crown corporations. They failed to do so. Since those Crown corporations are owned by the people of Canada already it seems to me that the issue is, what is it about the direction of Crown corporations that should be different, if anything? I happen to think that a substantial amount of change can and should have taken place. For example, representatives of the employees should have been put on the board of directors of every major Crown corporation. That is a good idea. I think different means of decision-making and working styles should have been developed within Crown corporations as an example of how the Government of the day expected management to function in the private sector as well.

We know the degree to which Japanese corporations have been extremely successful in penetrating the North American market. One of the reasons is that the management style is much more participatory, open, and extends responsibility and authority right down to the sweeper, the mechanic or assembly person on the shop floor. That of course has not occurred in this country because of blind resistance to having trade unions or workers involved in decision-making affecting their workplace, their work, or the company for whom they work. That occurs in the private sector and, unfortunately, in the public sector as well. I have to say that even companies as effectively managed as Air Canada have not come nearly as far as they should have in that particular direction.

The Hon. Member talked about share ownership in Crown corporations, the idea that you have to privatize Crown corporations in order to give a few shares to employees because somehow that is going to make the place work better. If you look at options, opportunities and alternative methods, that could have been done without having to go to privatization.