

Air Canada

● (2050)

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Portneuf (Mr. Ferland) on a point of order.

Mr. Ferland: Madam Speaker, I feel the NDP Member is pushing a bit too far this evening, and shows no respect for Air Canada workers.

Air Canada workers clearly stated they supported privatizing Air Canada, they were all for becoming owners.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. That was not a point of order. That was debate. The Hon. Member will have an opportunity to enter into it later on if he so wishes.

The Hon. Member's time has expired.

I now recognize the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Hudon).

Mr. Hudon: Madam Speaker, I would invite the Hon. Member opposite to join his group outside, those who oppose free trade, who walk around with small umbrellas, small chinese shoes, woollen socks, who oppose—

I am beginning to understand why last month Madam Speaker—this was one of the few Bills I kept for my election campaign—when an Hon. Member proposed to enshrine property rights into the Canadian Constitution, they all voted against that. They will have to explain that at some point in time, because that is what they are afraid of.

Those people are strict supporters of nationalizing almost everything. When he suggested earlier that private sector corporations, former Crown corporations that are now in the private sector, were thriving corporations, it is because they were feeding on Government money. They were feeding strictly on Government money, and today Air Canada as you very well know has come to a crossroads, because if it is to expand, it will need huge investments that will have to come from Canadians. That will belong to Canadians. But they absolutely oppose all private ownership. Very soon, we will have to ask them if they feel that even bank accounts or what-have-you should belong to the State.

Madam Speaker, those were recorded votes and all NDP Members who will run under that banner in Quebec will come and explain that to Quebecers. I will write articles on that, I will fight my election campaign on that. Common property belongs to all. They are here strictly to undermine other people's credibility, Madam Speaker.

There is a lockout in my constituency, at the Expro Company. For some four months an NDP backbencher has been simply destroying the credibility of that company, because they want it to belong to workers in order to do the same "ruddy" business. They are destroying—

Mr. Cassidy: And rightly so!

Mr. Hudon: Go and ask workers at the Expro Company tomorrow morning if they are ready for the NDP diversification plan. No way! They won't have any part of it. They are going to vote now to go back to work because a settlement is underway, and don't worry, you won't have them on your side. Because you have been undermining and wasting their livelihood day after day, without proving to the Secretary of State any of the allegations.

But you, because you speak in the House of Commons, you assume nobody is listening. In the end they will know what is being said in the House of Commons. They are not idiots. Expro workers are not idiots. Canadians and Quebecers who support private ownership are not idiots either.

Go and join your small Chinese shoe wearers opposite! Go out and shout for an election! We are ready to fight an election campaign on free trade.

[English]

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Madam Speaker, I want to say a few words on Motions Nos. 2 and 7.

With respect to Motion No. 7, let me point out that I can see the merit in the motion put forward by the Member from Winnipeg. In the announcement of the privatization of Air Canada, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) said that only 45 per cent of the shares would be sold. This was trumpeted as being a headline item in the Government's announcement, yet we see nothing about it in the Bill. The Government is being somewhat hypocritical by saying in its announcement of Air Canada's privatization that only 45 per cent of the shares would be sold while in the Bill, which is the governing vehicle for the actual privatization, there is nothing mentioning that all.

With respect to Motion No. 2, the motion is not exactly as stated by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy). The amendment as put forward does not actually refer to the percentage of shares to be held by non-residents. That is in another subclause of the same section. The amendment mentions when the voting takes place and how many non-resident votes will actually be counted.

I can sympathize with the position taken by my colleague from Ottawa Centre. However, our Party feels a definite obligation to the Government in one particular way. The Government did not include any provision in this Bill originally to indicate when the votes take place at annual meetings of the corporation how many non-resident votes will actually be counted.

The situation is that 25 per cent of non-government votes of Air Canada could be held by non-residents. The problem is that at an annual meeting the 25 per cent held by non-residents could be 50 per cent or more of the actual votes that would be cast at the annual meeting.