

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 26, 1990

The House met at 10 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

#### CROWN CORPORATIONS DISSOLUTION OR TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Friday, September 28, consideration of the motion of Mr. McDermid that Bill C-73, an act to provide for the dissolution or transfer of certain Crown corporations and to amend certain acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, if this were an isolated measure before us today, namely the proposal in the bill to dissolve, transfer or sell Canada Harbour Place, Canada Museums Construction Corporation, the Canadian Livestock Feed Board, the Canadian Patents and Development Limited, the Harbourfront Corporation and Mingan Associates Limited, this bill in its entirety and scope would be a source of concern.

This measure has to be seen against the background of a trend, a pattern. If we look at the record of the Conservative government on the matter of privatization, which actually is a very fancy word to replace the words dismantling Canada, and the interest of the Canadian public in a number of very fine initiatives, then we find a remarkably long list of measures that this government has carried out.

I would like to remind people of the sale of shares of Air Canada, the sale of the CN Hotels, the sale of a CN subsidiary called CN Route, and the sale of Canadair Limited. If that were not enough, this government

managed also to privatize Canadian Arsenals Limited and went on happily with the sale of de Havilland. Northern Canada Power Commission was not spared nor the Northern Transportation Company. Then there is Northwestel Inc., Pêcheries Canada Inc., and in 1987 there was the sale of Teleglobe Canada, with proceeds of some \$500 million in cash from that sale, a crucial and key industry. There is Terra Nova Telecommunications Inc. on the list of corporations that have been partially or entirely sold.

Crown holdings that have been sold include CNCP, and probably the jewel in the Crown in the sixties and seventies when we were attempting, and were quite successful, to establish Canadian public ownership in key industries, the Canada Development Corporation. Add to that Fishery Products International Limited, Nanisivik Mines Ltd., and Varsity Corporation.

To that, one must add initiatives which are now being considered. What emerges is a picture of the Government of Canada under Tory stewardship busily intent on dismantling public ownership in this country.

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In doing so, whenever there is the sale of an item, we do not always know whether the new owners will be Canadians or foreign interests, thus increasing of course ownership on the part of foreign investors.

This is a very disturbing pattern, but we cannot accuse the Tories of being inconsistent. Actually, the Progressive Conservative Party has been very consistent in this matter. It has promised to privatize Canada, and it is doing that quite effectively. It is giving away the public interest to the private sector, and sometimes to the private foreign sector.

That is a very disturbing fact, which nobody in this House can deny. In addition to that, we have seen the dissolution of the Foreign Investment Review Agency in 1985. We have seen a constant systematic weakening of the CBC. We are now at the eve of the sale of Petro-Canada about which many of us will be denied the right to speak because of closure.