

have to kill you to cure you. That is basically what they are doing here.

The amendments that are before us right now dealing with Petro-Canada are important amendments. Canadians believe that our energy sector is one that has implications on our sovereignty. In the east coast of this country we have to rely on imported oil, gas, and crude oil even though this country is a net exporter of oil. Petro-Canada has played a major role in the development of Hibernia. It has played a major role in the Syncrude projects in western Canada. It has taken the leading edge because Petro-Canada's mandate was to look after the interests of Canadians, not to look after the interests of those in the corporate boardrooms in New York or over in some capital of Europe.

The amendments that we have before us are very important because of this crazy piece of legislation. I find it very difficult to listen to the minister of privatization at the best of times, but I tried very hard to listen to him because I figured that maybe there were some pearls of wisdom.

The only pearl of wisdom I could find was one that I had to sift through the sheets on: the reason it is going forward with the privatization of Petro-Canada at this point in time. When we have a major crisis in the Persian Gulf, when the very supply of crude oil to Atlantic Canada and other places is in question, and when Canadians once again are getting concerned about having a window in the energy sector so that they can direct and develop the energy sector, out of the blue the government, after many abortive attempts to do something with Petro-Canada—goodness knows what it wants to do; I am not sure—came in with a bill to privatize it.

One would have to come to the conclusion, after listening to the minister and watching what is happening across this country to Tory fortunes, that this bone was thrown out as a diversion for some caucus members, particularly the western caucus, who were getting their butts kicked solidly because of their support of this government's crazy GST, which has put them at 7 per cent in the polls. They will do anything for a diversion. I think this Petro-Canada privatization legislation at this point is such a diversion.

### *Government Orders*

The minister opposite laughs. I think it is a nervous laugh. I do not think it is a belly laugh. I have seen a lot of ministers on the other side of the House doing a lot of nervous laughs the last little while. Every time a piece of legislation comes in that the Canadian public does not want, they all get the giggles over there. They say: "Gee, isn't it funny? The opposition is getting up and telling us the truth. It is telling us that we are doing something again that the public doesn't want". It is like a siege mentality, particularly on this bill. They really believe that everybody in the country is wrong and they are right. If they just put their faith in Brian, at some point in time everything will come out fine and smelling like roses. That is what they believe over there. It is little wonder they get kind of giddy at times.

The proposed amendments which we are speaking to today are important. If this government is going to pursue this crazy policy at the very time the people of Canada are seeing the energy reserves and resources as a national resource that can affect our sovereignty as a nation, they are going too far with it.

These amendments simply try to point out some difficulties. The motion that has been put forward by my colleague from Scarborough—Rouge River, who has done a tremendous job, an absolutely phenomenal job of exposing this government for what it is and for what it is trying to do in the energy sector, shows that the government is bankrupt on policies. It does not have an national energy policy and wants to base everything on the marketplace. If it can be sold to the highest bidder it does not matter if it is a Canadian resource, just get rid of it. Get a few bucks in the coffers. If we cannot manage the economy, we cannot manage the government, we certainly need more money in the coffers. Forget about preserving and managing a national resource such as energy, oil and gas, for the benefit of everybody.

If the government wanted to do something perhaps it could have brought in some amendments to Petro-Canada to make sure that Petro-Canada was serving the interests of the consumers and the producers in western Canada.

The particular amendment, Motion No. 19, put forward by my colleague, who has piloted this legislation for us on this side of the House, the member for Scarborough—Rouge River who has done a great job, basically