

expenditures in order to serve ourselves and future generations far better than we are today.

One of our concerns is accountability. The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody raised this concern yesterday. When other facets of the program are debated later, the hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) will discuss mechanisms for providing accountability for Crown corporations in much greater detail. That issue is one which perhaps is the key to the main social and political question which will have to be answered by Canadians and politicians not only in Canada but in the United States and throughout the industrialized world in the next few years.

This question does not only concern accountability in Crown corporations; it concerns accountability in the mechanics of Parliament and the whole question of parliamentary reform. As well, we must consider accountability for all those large corporations, private or public, which make many of the key decisions that closely touch the lives of the vast majority of Canadians.

It is rather astounding and somewhat alarming that the procedures for accountability which exist for agencies of the Crown are in many cases not much better presently than those for the private sector. While the minister and the government seem intent on holus-bolus creating perhaps dozens more instant Crown corporations—piggy-backing them on this bill or the rest of the NEP—I urge them to think seriously about the fact that not only will we have to develop better measures for Parliament to be able to hold the government and its Crown corporations to account, but we should attempt to structure into those corporations, when they are set up, positive input from their employees, communities or regions. This input should exist within the internal management mechanisms so that Canadians and Members of Parliament will not just be in the position of trying to remedy mistakes many years after they are made, because with that input things might be done somewhat differently.

We must look at it from both ends of the spectrum. I appeal to the minister and his government to ensure that they will serve some public wellbeing and purpose before they rush headlong into forming hundreds of new corporations. Last year, the government did not even know how many corporations it had and now, hell bent for leather, they are trying to create more without developing any appropriate accountability or management mechanisms.

It is important for us to be cautious about the sort of regulations which will apply. It should not only be an adversary system, whether involving unions, governments or oppositions checking on what the government corporation does. We should make sure that there are institutions in place on some of these giant rigs which will be working off all three coasts of Canada, to ensure that the type of attitude such as I read in a book review in *The Globe and Mail* on Saturday, March 13, does not occur here. The review refers to a book called "The Other Price of Britain's Oil", by W.G. Carson and the philosophies stated by one unrepentant oilman, who seemed to be very representative of that industry. It was in reference to laws and

regulations regarding the exploration and discovery of oil and gas in the North Sea. He said:

"We break your . . . laws every . . . day; if we didn't, you wouldn't have one . . . hole drilled in your . . . North Sea."

From the information I have received from people who have worked in and around that industry, that kind of operative philosophy is not unlikely to appear in Canadian exploration areas. We will have a very difficult time ensuring that the lives of Canadians and Canada's environment and economic future are secure. People who make statements like that in industries that are infamous for having that kind of attitude will not do us any favours unless we have some very ironclad agreements as to how they will operate.

● (1640)

It worries me, many of my colleagues, many people in the work force throughout this country, and many in the democratic organizations which represent workers, that it will be virtually impossible to have organized workers working on some of those rigs which will be in place off Canada's coasts.

I do not know if any hon. members here have seen the movie I saw a while ago when I was stranded in Calgary. Other people do not mind being stranded in Calgary, but I was stranded in Calgary on my way to my riding because my plane was not flying. I went downtown to kill some time and saw a movie called, I think, "The Outlanders". It was somewhat like "High Noon" in outer space, with Sean Connery playing the sheriff at some mining camp up on an asteroid. It was a fictional movie, but in the movie workers' food contained chemicals and drugs to induce more productivity.

Mr. Keeper: A Liberal conspiracy!

Mr. Kristiansen: That was fiction, but what is to stop any company or organization in that same type of absolutely isolated and controlled environment—which is exactly what exists out on the rigs—from making itself the law?

When we consider the kind of operative philosophy I quoted in that very timely book about North Sea oil exploration and development, we have to wonder just what kind of nightmare world we will create on some of those rigs. The people on the *Ocean Ranger* found out. People on other rigs off our coasts seem to be very worried about the same kind of thing happening today because of the same kind of dereliction of responsibilities. People feel threatened when they see 35-foot, 40-foot and 50-foot waves breaking along the Atlantic coast.

We had better be sure of what we are getting into. I am concerned not only about the issue of accountability but also about the whole range of issues respecting public priorities and public spending which must be taken into serious consideration before we rubber stamp the type of piggy-back bill the government is presenting in Bill C-102. For that reason and many others I oppose the bill before us.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Chair will recognize the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) on the understanding that he will close the debate.