Government Orders

Mr. Dingwall: Madam Speaker, perhaps the Chair would be kind enough to indicate to the House how much time is remaining with regard to this particular debate and the time allocation motion on Bill C-84.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am advised by the Table that there are 17 minutes left to debate before I must put the question to the House.

Mr. MacDougall: Madam Speaker, again I would like to start and I understand we only have roughly 17 minutes left in this debate.

First reading of this bill was on October 1, 1990. Second reading took place on October 10, 1990. with a total of six speakers. Three of those speakers were opposition members. Again, on October 11 there were three and two. On October 23, three and one. October 29, six and three, for a total of 18 speakers, nine of whom were opposition members.

The legislative committee which met with regard to Bill C-84 held nine meetings and heard more than 10 witnesses and groups of witnesses. The Minister of State for Privatization and Regulatory Affairs and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources also appeared before the committee. I should refer to the fact that the minister for privatization appeared there twice. The bill was then amended on November 30 at report stage. As of today, there have been 18 speakers, 12 of them from the opposition parties.

While listening to the debate in my office I heard an uproar over the fact that again the government has moved time allocation. If you go back between 1980 and 1984, you will find that there were 25 time allocation motions and two closure motions moved. This party, between 1984 and 1988, moved 20 time allocation motions and two closure motions.

I now want to deal with the facts with regard to Bill C-84 and some of the witnesses who appeared before the committee. On October 23, 1990, CBC radio network, *Morningside*, former energy minister Marc Lalonde with regard to the privatization of Petro-Canada said that it was never the purpose of Petro-Canada to protect us against the various parts of the market.Nobody ever guaranteed that the assistance of Petro-Canada would mean cheaper oil. Petro-Canada had to buy the oil product and produce its oil and sell it for the price it carries in the marketplace.

This statement is quite interesting when you think back. October 28 is a black day on the calendar of western Canadians. That is the 10 year anniversary of the national Liberal national energy policy. It is a memory that will go on for many, many years for western Canadians and, in fact, for all Canadians, when the government of the day brought in its National Energy Program.

It was interesting to hear the leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Chrétien, who was elected last night, a former cabinet minister, admit that the National Energy Program was wrong. He stated in Calgary that it was a mistake. Just what the position of the Official Opposition is going to be on this issue, I do not know. We are already starting to see policies of yesterday when he was in cabinet. It is now going to be: "I am sorry, I made a mistake. We are going to try to do it over again".

It is interesting to talk to individuals such as Ian Smith, then of the Canadian Petroleum Association. He recalls: "I remember driving home with a Canadian oil company president. It was warm. His window was down. So was mine. He said, 'This is the worst day of my life'. People everywhere were saying 'They cannot be doing this to us'. He watched the TV. It was one blow after another; Allan MacEachen reading it out."

We all know that the hon. member now is in that other House and he is doing it again to Canadians. Now it is with regard to another piece of legislation that is going to move this country forward. The Liberal Party always loves to see us in a recession, whether it is caused by the national energy program which crippled this country, or through the debt which the Liberal government brought Canadians that we are now paying.

When we see what is going on, we understand our objectives which were largely anticipated from 1984 until now: to promote efficient development in the use of Canada's energy resource; increase the flexibility, diversification and competitiveness of Canadian energy companies; assure security of supply; ensure that energy production and use occurs in an environmentally responsible manner; the private opportunities for increased Canadian ownership and control of the domestic petroleum industry; and finally, to ensure energy contribution to a national reconciliation.