

*Government Orders*

structures. The marketplace scores again and the public loses.

We have heard about CN Route, a situation where the Tories privatized the company, sold it to a man who had been denied a credit card and then watched as 1,900 employees lost their jobs in a bankruptcy that occurred only 20 months after the privatization.

Malcolm Brickland, the great Atlantic car maker, bilked taxpayers of huge sums of money. Peter Pocklington in Saskatchewan. The taxpayers of Saskatchewan gave Peter Pocklington the money to build a bacon processing plant in my home town of North Battleford. The province of Alberta took over the assets of Peter Pocklington and now the taxpayers of Alberta own the company for which the Saskatchewan taxpayers paid. The great private sector at work.

What about the recent examples of Alberta Telephone and Air Canada? These privatizations have cost investments and jobs. Another popular myth with the privatizers is that there is a greater "public participation in share offering than there is in taxpayer ownership". Aside from the fact that Crown corporations, by their very nature, are owned by everyone and hold a great deal of taxpayers' equity, the best thing that can be said about Crown corporations is that they are accountable to their governments, and therefore accountable to the taxpayers.

Certainly the Howard Pawley government in Manitoba learned that lesson after car insurance rates increased beyond what the consumer was willing to pay. I would like to see a private car insurance scheme that was accountable to its shareholders and consumers.

A Crown corporation is the only way that a widespread shareholding can be effectively democratic. If we, as Canadians, ever want to have an influence through our government on the energy sector and its subsequent influence on the environment, then we have to maintain Petro-Canada.

To maintain Petro-Canada is also to give it a renewed mandate for exploration and development, and one that also includes other energy sources that will one day replace our nation's in the world's dependence on fossil fuels. The national interest has been forgotten in the name of the almighty marketplace which this govern-

ment praises, while farmers and small business people go begging. The so-called middle class in this country is forced to pay the ever increasing bills.

Privatization is very mixed up in the marketplace agenda that the free trade deal and the goods and services tax have begun. Mr. Speaker, if you believe that the mythical marketplace will stabilize and develop our economy, then you have to believe the Crown corporations should not be interfering with it. So what, then, if we lose the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan and Air Canada? So what if we see plans being prepared to get rid of Petro-Canada, Sask Energy, Canada Post Corporation and even the CBC?

There are more, of course. Canada and the provinces have always used Crown corporations for various positive purposes, but we cannot let our dislike for the present Prime Minister, or even for the premier of Saskatchewan or any other Conservative politician and our frustrations with their actions convince us that privatization is the answer to an improved economy. Rather, privatization just removes by one step our ability to control and manage our economy in our own interests.

New Democrats like public enterprise because, among other things, it acts as a vehicle for decentralizing entrepreneurship and investment decisions. It decentralizes economic power and acts as a buffer against the growing concentration of ownership and control in private corporate firms.

There is a role for public corporations in Canada, in the provinces and even at the local municipal level.

In fact, public enterprise has a vital and successful history. We have in Canada some of the world's best electrical utilities, the best telephone companies, the best broadcasting networks, the most efficient automobile insurance companies, a leading airline that once paved the way for health and safety matters, and a grain marketing agency that has liberated farmers from speculative markets and held their own in difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, you may not think of the Canadian Wheat Board as a Crown corporation, as a public enterprise, but it is. The Canadian Wheat Board belongs to all of us and acts for all of us in the selling of grain in the international marketplace. It has been highly succes-