

What we are establishing here is not just another oil company, it is an oil company with virtually an unlimited budget behind it, and playing as the only player in the field who is also the referee. That is the very dangerous aspect of any intervention of this kind.

There are a number of other options available to the government in achieving the goals it says it wants to achieve by establishing this Crown corporation. It could have extended the powers, the activities and the budget of Panarctic. It could, as the hon. member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington) and others have said, put incentives into the Canadian tax law to encourage Canadians to invest in the energy field, and encourage foreigners to divest themselves of Canadian interests, thereby increasing the Canadian percentage of control in this field.

There is also, as has frequently been mentioned before, the option insofar as imports are concerned for purchases by the Department of Supply and Services. It already has the power we are vesting in Petro-Can. If there is a genuine concern on the part of the government about the private sector, and a genuine appreciation of the capacity of the private sector to do the job, there is the option for the government to go ahead now and enact regulations regarding exploration in the north which would give the private sector a fair chance to prove what it can do in the frontier areas where the minister says this Crown corporation will concentrate its activities.

● (2110)

There were a variety of other things that could have been done instead of establishing this particular Crown corporation. But they were not done, not for reasons related to energy or even for reasons related to a philosophy about a mixed economy. The reason those other options were not taken was that they would have interfered with the basic goal of the government in this bill, as in so many other actions, simply to extend its own power. That is the only general over-all policy the government has. It is a policy to extend its own power, to get into more things whether they are traditionally things which belong to the private sector or traditionally powers which belong to the provinces. It is the only philosophy the government has, and it has been the motivating policy in the establishment of Petro-Can here. We have it clearly demonstrated in the question of the intrusion upon the jurisdictions of the provinces, the intervention into the provincial jurisdiction relating to energy matters and petroleum.

This is not, as the apologists might suggest, for the purpose of protecting any part of Canada against any other part of Canada because negotiations as to price have been conducted, as this one is being conducted this week, by first ministers sitting down together and reaching an agreement. There was no need to have an invasion of a provincial field in order to accomplish that purpose. It would have been accomplished in any event. The motive of the government in that particular intervention was not price but power. It was an attempt to enlarge its own sphere of power, not with any particular purpose in mind but simply so that it could have and exercise more power.

I regret that the Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier) has left the House. Again we have seen a similar determination, or a similar willingness by the government

#### *Petro-Canada*

to frustrate completely the development of cable communications in this country because of jurisdictional questions. The people in my constituency and in your constituency, Madam Speaker, as well as in every constituency in this country, perhaps with the exception of a few major cities, are suffering because jurisdiction over cable is unclear. The capacity of whatever government will have that jurisdiction is unsettled. That has directly to do with a determination to aggrandize power, which is the single motivating philosophy of the government. It is a philosophy perhaps which involves fouling up anything and intervening anywhere, in the private sector or in the provincial sphere, simply to extend the government's powers.

There is no demonstrated need for Petro-Can. The reason we have this legislation simply is that the government wants another Crown corporation to do what does not need to be done, and to duplicate what is already being done in other aspects of government. That is insufficient reason to ask for the approval of this House to obtain \$500 million, and perhaps more, each year. It is for that reason I, and other members on this side of the House, intend to vote against this particular fraud of a bill at this stage, again in the committee, and again if it comes back to the House for third reading.

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** I realize, Madam Speaker, that there have been a number of speeches on this particular piece of legislation. I wish to say there have been a number of excellent speeches this afternoon and this evening. It is unfortunate that members opposite just close their ears and tend to ignore the very good points raised by members on this side of the House. Many of those points are very legitimate. I think if members were objective in their assessment of the deliberations they would find that the speeches have been very thought provoking, sensible and reasoned.

The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), this afternoon in his comments during a very well reasoned speech, referred to this piece of legislation as merely a gesture toward fulfilment of Canada's energy requirements. While it may be a gesture insofar as fulfilling that purpose is concerned, I want to say that in my opinion it is a horrendous gesture, and perhaps nothing more than an octopus which is unwieldy and which we could do without. In a society which is already saturated by the complexities of large central bureaucracies and dominated by them when, in my view, society could be more effectively served by the private sector, I find it startling that so many members opposite blindly find comfort in supporting this measure.

This having been conceived during the days of unions I would have thought the government in consideration of the NDP might have seen fit to drop this measure which, in my view, we do not need. There is no need to create an empire such as this. I believe experience tells us that such enterprises become unwieldy and out of control. We have only to look at the operations of the CBC. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) today mentioned the fact that the CBC requires some 22 odd people to cover the Commonwealth Conference in the Carribean while its counterpart, CTV, will be covering that same operation with one cameraman and one reporter.