

Canagrex

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Hon. Member over there is suffering from delusions, and I would ask that you bring in the point of relevancy again at this stage, with a test of rationality on this, of course.

Mr. Taylor: You are out of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party is very nervous about that because it has lost a Government in the West over their ideological stand to block individuals from having the privilege of owning land. Therefore, the Party is very sensitive. It is also sensitive because it stood with the Government over the National Energy Program. However, I would like to explain to you why we put that argument against the buy-sell provision in this clause, why the amendments before you are to withdraw those buy-sell powers. There is some very good evidence which Hon. Members opposite should listen to. It concerns the growth of these Crown corporations, once we get them going. You would need to look, Mr. Speaker, at the most recent report from the Treasury Board, the Government's own document, which points out, for example, that Air Canada has five subsidiaries which it owns 100 per cent. It has seven subsidiaries which it owns 50 per cent to 99 per cent and there are 12 subsidiaries in which it holds less than 50 per cent interest. The CNR has 59 subsidiary corporations in which it owns 100 per cent of the shares. There are six subsidiaries of the CNR in which it owns 50 per cent to 99 per cent, and there are some eight subsidiaries in which the CNR owns less than 50 per cent of the shares. There is the CDIC which is just being put together now by 17 Orders in Council before a Bill was put before the House. It will be the most massive intervention in the civil and business part of this country which we have ever seen.

Let me give an example which is so typical of the attack on the West, Mr. Speaker, that is, the National Energy Program and the Petro-Canada legislation. You can ask me, Mr. Speaker, why we have all of these subsections to take out the buy-sell provision. Let us look at Petro-Canada. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Petro-Canada started in 1976. It has bought out three major private corporations, all of which were paying income tax to National Revenue. Petro-Canada pays a few dollars in but still takes out more than twice, in terms of parliamentary appropriations, of what it returns in income tax. Then there is the four cents a gallon tax. Let us look at the subsidiaries, Mr. Speaker. Since 1976, Petro-Canada has 44 subsidiary corporations in which it owns 100 per cent of the shares. It has two subsidiary corporations in which it owns between 50 per cent and 99 per cent of the shares, and it has eight subsidiary corporations in which it owns less than 50 per cent. That is a total of 54 subsidiary corporations which have now been taken over by Petro-Canada or set up by Petro-Canada. We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that they must all have their bureaucracies and those bureaucracies are appointed by the Cabinet. When the Hon. Member for Capilano says that we have corporations with more power than ancient kings and queens, he speaks the truth.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, in order to make the point so that the Government and the New Democratic Party will finally see the error of their ways and vote for these amendments, I am going to give you the names of those subsidiaries of Petro-Canada. And that is right on the major point which we are discussing. Subsidiaries held at 100 per cent are Canertech Conservation Inc., Pacific Enercon Ltd., Mechron Energy Ltd., 107744 Canada Inc.—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Taylor: Oh, sit down, he is on the motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. Order, please. The Chair would ask the Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) to indicate in what way the list of companies he is now putting before the House is related to the specific amendments now before the House.

Mr. Malone: That should be very obvious.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, we have eight motions which take the buy-sell provisions, the state corporation dimensions, out of Canagrex. And I am, by way of illustration, pointing out to you how important these amendments are because since 1976, Petro-Canada, as an illustration, has now 54 subs and sub-subsidiary corporations. In order to make that point, I want to list them. I want to stick it down the throats of those guys sideways, if I can, so that they finally speak up and stop being "yes men"—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. Order. I am sure the Hon. Member in his mind believes that the matter he is now raising is related in some way to the specific amendments. However, even though the amendments have been regrouped for the purpose of debate, I must ask the Hon. Member to indicate to the Chair to what amendment or amendments the matter he is now raising relates? The chair finds it difficult to make the connection. Of course, the Chair may be totally wrong; it sometimes happens. The Hon. Member would be helpful if he could explain the matter a little more.

• (1540)

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had when I was explaining to you that, by illustration, you can often show just how damaging the clauses in this Bill are. That is the reason we have these eight amendments to take out the buy-sell power, the state trading corporation aspect. I seek your ruling on this, but it seems perfectly clear to me that an illustration from another example within the last few months can show you clearly that there is danger in this Canagrex Bill. That is why I intend to carry on, Mr. Speaker, unless you rule me totally out of order. I think the House needs to hear this.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I am listing as follows the 100 per cent fully owned Petro-Canada subsidiaries: Drilling Inc.; Petro-Canada Consulting Corporation; Petro-Canada Exploration Inc.; Asher American, Inc.; Big Eagle Oil & Gas Ltd.;