

Nordion and Theratronics

have and sell them off". What terrible business management, Mr. Speaker.

The future energy projections in this country are very obvious. We have heard about recent updates of the energy needed in the years to come. Maybe there are people who do not think this is related to this Bill. What I am saying, what my colleague has said, and what my hon. friend from Newfoundland said on the first day this Bill came before the House is that this industry must be kept going if we are to meet the energy needs for the future. A lot of the waterways in this country have been used up. Are we going to move into northern Ontario now and block up James Bay, because we are not putting money in from the profitable areas of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, these two crown corporations that the Government wants to sell via Bill C-13? I know the Members across the way cannot see this because they have tunnel vision when it comes to discussing these things known as energy, radio-medical isotopes, cancer therapy units and all related equipment thereto, namely, the research done by the parent company.

I said on May 1 in this House, I am saying it again today and I will keep on saying it, that I wish this Government would come to its senses, retain these two Crown corporations and let the funds from them go back into research and development so that things can continue. The Government has its source. What will it have after it sells these two profitable companies? Your income ends right there.

Mr. McDermid: Speak to the employees.

Mr. Hopkins: The Minister of State for Privatization and Regulatory Affairs (Mr. McDermid) says speak to the employees. I have spoken to them.

Mr. McDermid: When?

Mr. Hopkins: They are worried that if the corporation does not get sold out the Government will close other operations down and they may well become the victims.

Mr. McDermid: That is not what they are afraid of at all.

Mr. Hopkins: The Hon. Member does not want to hear that. He does not understand that part of it.

I am absolutely firm in my stand that the profits from these offshoots that originated with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited should go back into the parent company to help finance them. There will come a day, if the Government lets this corporation go down the drain, if it is reduced, if it cannot operate, when someone will have to pick up the tab. You cannot let it go down the drain because reactors have to be serviced. You cannot turn off the tap in industrialized Canada. If you do, you are turning off the tap on the dollars that this Government needs to gobble up for projects under way.

The Government wants all the money it can get and yet it is selling off some of the best assets we have in Canada.

Mr. McDermid: Nonsense.

Mr. Hopkins: The Minister says "nonsense". What kind of nonsense is it to have two Crown corporations sold off that are making money for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, to take the money out of the reserve funds, to cut the Budget and then turn around and say "You guys pay your own way"?

Mr. McDermid: They are being bled to death by the parent company. That is why.

Mr. Hopkins: That kind of logic has got through to him. He is suddenly thinking. If there was one thing I wanted to do in this speech it was to start the thinking process within the mind of the Minister for privatization. I hope he continues to think about this all night. I hope the Government decides to do so as well because it is cutting off some of the finest products ever produced with public funds in this country.

Mr. McDermid: Nonsense. They are being cut off.

Mr. Hopkins: That public funding is needed to continue sponsoring Atomic Energy of Canada Limited so it can continue its role in research and development in this country as one of the gems of research, not only in the medical field but in the energy and in many other fields as well.

I was quite interested in the Minister's letter. I hope that he will come out with a very positive program for this corporation. It will be very interesting to see how this whole matter is turned around and how the Government will continue to tell Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to "pay your own way. But if you make a buck we want it for the federal treasury. Once we get it in the