

Energy, Mines and Resources

being assigned for administration through the Crown corporation called Petro-Canada would be a fallacy. It would be a terrible mistake.

When we discussed Bill C-48, we discussed the need for additional Crown corporations in this area. We strongly proposed that serious consideration be given to holding corporations taking over the 25 per cent share in some of the areas, holding corporations which do not get involved in the management of the corporation itself in relation to exploration, development and production.

I say this because Bill C-48 is a fact. It is in place. It is there. That 25 per cent ownership share will be assigned in every property to a Crown corporation. Therefore, in offering some advice to the minister and to the government on something that is needed, I again suggest to the minister that he consider very strongly the establishment of holding corporations which do not hire a vast number of government personnel to get involved in the actual development on some of these federal lands.

I wish to say again as I said yesterday, that in the area of the creation of boards for these corporations which will receive 25 per cent of the ownership or holdings in some of the properties in federal lands, every consideration be given to allowing the provinces to appoint a member to the board of directors of these corporations. The provinces could then be involved in establishing energy policy at the earliest opportunity in energy development in Canada. If a holding corporation is established to deal with the Labrador coast with respect to the 25 per cent ownership, I see no reason why some of the Atlantic provinces would not be permitted to appoint a member to the board of that corporation. What would be wrong with that?

The Beaufort Sea is going to be tied through a series of lines in a north-south direction with British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. What would be wrong with those three provinces being given the right to put a member on the board of directors of the Crown corporation that will own 25 per cent of all properties in the Beaufort Sea? What will be wrong with British Columbia putting somebody on the board of directors of the Crown corporation dealing with western offshore properties of which 25 per cent will be assigned to a federal Crown corporation? Indeed, the same would be true for Sable Island and Hibernia. The provinces are desperately interested in the development of oil and gas in these areas and should have a substantial input into policies associated with their development. Maybe the bill is not perfect in form and perhaps the method for dissolving some of these Crown corporations is not the best.

● (1630)

What I am attempting to say is that I favour the creation of some Crown corporations which will be assigned 25 per cent interest in some property on federally owned land. I think it would be wrong to assign that share of ownership in every case to Petro-Canada which, as a single corporation, would not be capable of managing that area of such vast diversity and complexity. That is my basic point and I simply say that it is a

point I made very strongly when we discussed Bill C-48. I just repeat it for the record here.

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak very briefly to Bill C-102. While many Canadians had grave reservations about the two-week "Gong Show" which tied this place up for two weeks not very long ago, that demonstration, for all of its faults, focused the attention of many Canadians on some of the details of the National Energy Program which otherwise may have escaped their attention.

As was said a number of times by the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), we in the NDP agree with much of the National Energy Program. However, we certainly do not agree with all of its contents. We disagree with it, as do members of the opposition party to my right, but in different areas.

I was asked on many occasions during that two-week gong show—the battle between the dingbats and the ding-a-lings that went on across the country which seemed like forever—to try to explain what the issue was all about. I described it basically as follows, that when the opposition parties wanted the bill split, the Conservatives wanted it split so that they could vote for the \$6.5 billion more to the big oil companies and vote against the expansion of Petro-Canada and real Canadianization. The New Democratic Party wanted the bill split so we could vote for Petro-Canada and general Canadianization and vote against an extra \$6.5 billion for the big oil companies. The Liberals wanted one undivided bill so they could give \$6.5 billion extra to the oil companies and still masquerade it as reform. That was basically what the entire issue consisted of.

I am glad that at least the "Gong Show" was able to bring to the attention of Canadians the various motivations and objectives of all the parties during the consideration of this very important program.

Yesterday, the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose) discussed the miserly allocation of funds within the program for renewables and alternate energy and illustrated the overemphasis placed on megaprojects with their high cost of drilling rigs and exploration in Hibernia, Beaufort, Alsands and the other areas. He talked about the great expense involved in developing those resources which are very difficult to reach, if in fact some of those resources are there at all. He related these expenses to the fact that if a small amount of that money was applied to developing conservation, renewables and alternate energy, the country would be much better served not only in terms of energy security but in terms of employment which could be diversified across many regions of the country. This should be done instead of boosting the economies in a few local areas with high inflationary costs which sometimes are associated with megaprojects, which are concentrated in those areas. We have experienced this situation in Canada before.

Perhaps it is time for the government, as well as Canadians, to take a long, hard look at some of the available options and realize that we should be diversifying some of our efforts and