

Government Orders

Canertech, and PetroCan was not able to continue with that object. Fair enough.

There are other objects: to import, produce, transport, distribute, refine and market hydrocarbons of all descriptions. Petro-Canada does that, and does it in spades. Another object is to produce, distribute, transport and market other fuels and energy. Last, to engage or invest in ventures or enterprises related to exploration production, importation, distribution, refining and marketing of fuel energy and related resources. That is a fine mandate. Those are the objects as set out in the original Petro-Canada Act. Petro-Canada has delivered on those.

It has, in accordance with those objects and the mandate it was initially given, fulfilled its role as a state oil company. Dozens of other countries around the world, almost every country that has a play, a stake in the oil energy business, has a state oil company. For some reason, we in Canada did not prior to 1975. Our neighbour to the south did not. We all know why it did not. It was because it had what came to be known as the seven sisters. It had a good handful, a multibillion dollar handful of multinational oil companies engaged in all sectors of the oil energy business right around the world. It did not need a state oil company. It already had its corporations active in the field. Countries such as Norway, India, Venezuela, Brazil, and the list goes on, have state oil companies that are active today in the oil market, whether the price of oil is \$50 a barrel or \$20 a barrel. Each of those companies is fulfilling a mandate on behalf of the citizens of the country those companies represent.

In 1975, Canada decided to create its own state oil company. It built its own corporation. It became the second largest integrated oil company in Canada, and Canada did it on its own. It was big enough to compete and work with the majors, domestically and internationally.

Why did Canada need a state oil company? Why do other countries need them? Why have they come to be? I submit that there were three principle reasons. First, to Canadianize our oil and gas sector. Second, to engage in exploration for oil and gas. Third, to provide what has

become known as a window on the oil industry. Let us look at those three areas in a bit more detail.

Do you remember the sixties? I am not doing this for nostalgic purposes. I am doing it so we can remember a little bit how things were in the 1960s. We were being eaten alive by non-Canadian oil companies that wished to purchase, expand and be present in the Canadian market. They were gobbling up our oil and gas concerns. Do you remember Supertest? Do you remember BA or White Rose? I can see the Speaker remembers White Rose.

These former old oil companies were all absorbed by the multinational majors and disappeared. Each of them had an element of Canadian control. We got a little nervous in the 1960s and 1970s when we suddenly realized that our whole energy sector was being not so much manipulated, but worked over nicely by the multinationals. We were quickly losing our presence as Canadians.

Who are the majors who participate in Canada now, and where are their head offices? It is just not a geography lesson here. The head offices are where the dividends go, where the major board decisions are made on just what corporate enterprises are carried out and how they do it.

One of them, the biggest, is Exxon. I think their home is Fairfield, Connecticut. Shell, The Hague, The Netherlands; Mobil Oil-Chevron-Amoco have offices in Chicago, California and New York. It is fair to say that each of those corporations does not give a darn about the goals of Canadians in the energy sector. Why should they? I am not even saying they should. I do not believe they do, and I do not believe they should because their goal is to generate profits for their shareholders. That is their mandate. They do not care about security of supply in Canada. They do not care about Canadian conservation efforts or off oil efforts. Off oil efforts may in fact shrink their business. They have no reason at all to push that element of a government energy policy, if there was a government energy policy.

To recap simply, their goal is profitable—and that is not a bad word, it is a good word—operations for their shareholders, most of whom reside outside Canada. An example of that not caring, not being interested, occurred within the last couple of years. You will recall that Texaco, one of the seven sisters, a big major, had a bit of a problem with a lawsuit in Texas, I believe. I will not mention the other oil company in case I have the name