

*Oral Questions*

Last week I met with the President of Dome who assured me, after saying so in public, that as the man responsible for Dome he had to consider any bid which would be made to Dome and which, in his opinion, would be better than Amoco's.

I would also emphasize that the Canadian Government is not aware of any other bid, so that I think it would be quite premature to presume how the Canadian Government might respond through Investment Canada.

As to the letter mentioned by the Hon. Member, I am not personally familiar with it. Should anyone feel that it infringes on one's rights, there are courts in Canada to handle this kind of situation.

[English]

## INTEREST OF IMPERIAL OIL CORPORATION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister says that he is not aware of any other bid. I thought it was more or less public knowledge that Imperial Oil Corporation was interested in such a possibility.

Presumably the decision to be reached by the Government of Canada will be in the interests of Canada, particularly western Canadians.

Considering that the letter threatened legal action against Imperial Oil if it made a counter bid, and that the Chief Executive Officer of Imperial Oil confirmed with me earlier today that Imperial Oil will not make a counter bid as a result of this letter, will the Minister live up to his Canadian responsibilities and intervene directly in this process to make sure there is open competition for the takeover so that Canadian interests will be served, and not guarantee that Amoco Corporation will simply get it?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I think all Members of this House will be surprised to see how earnestly the NDP is defending the corporate values of Imperial Oil. I think the company has enough lawyers and is sufficiently conversant with the Canadian legal system to decide whether it wants to bring the matter before the courts.

Secondly, I feel that if Imperial Oil wants to make an offer to Dome Petroleum, this kind of letter is certainly not going to prevent it from doing so.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I understood the Minister's last sentence, but I got the impression he implied that Imperial Oil did not make the decision because of this letter. If he said so, that is not the case.

● (1430)

[English]

The Minister is indicating on the contrary. All right.

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Since it is evidently in the public interest of Canada that whoever gets control of Dome Petroleum should be the best company for Canadian interests, Canadian taxpayers and the people of western Canada, and since this letter has now threatened one corporation by telling it legal action will be taken against it—and, because I understand it is now circulated throughout the industry it has presumably scared off other potential takeover bids—will the Minister finally get involved concretely, call all the parties in and make sure the takeover bid which is in the best interest of Canada is the one which succeeds?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is up to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to discuss legal points or give a legal opinion on the subject of the legality of letters exchanged between corporations. I am willing to ask the Department of Justice whether the Canadian Government can intervene in such cases. Personally, I would be very surprised, but I will inquire.

I may remind the Hon. Member that the President of Dome Petroleum stated that he was prepared to consider and evaluate any offer that might be made to Dome Petroleum. If Imperial Oil wants to make an offer, it has to make that offer to Dome Petroleum and not to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. That is why the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is not informed of the content of any offers whatsoever.

[English]

**Mr. Broadbent:** But they can't make an offer. They will be sued.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF JIANGSU,  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of Mr. Yang Yongyi, the Deputy Governor of Jiangsu of the People's Republic of China.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DEPUTY SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF  
LORDS

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish also to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of Baroness Carolyn Cox, Deputy Speaker of the British House of Lords.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!