

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: I want to observe that often the Chair, in the exercise of common sense, chooses not to hear something. However, just a moment ago there was a remark which was clearly unparliamentary. I, of course, do not know who the Hon. Member was who made it and I am not interested in finding out at the moment. However, I am interested in making it clear that that remark was absolutely and utterly inappropriate and it did nothing to dignify these proceedings.

I would remind Hon. Members that when they do not have the floor and an open mike is available, however strongly they may feel they should not make their comments into the microphone of another Member when they are using language that is clearly inappropriate to this place.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I can inform the Hon. Member that as far as export prices are concerned, the Socialist Party is hardly in a position to criticize, because that same Party wanted to prohibit all energy exports. This Party was elected on a specific platform, but it was also elected to protect the interests of Canada, including the interests of the Western provinces. As far as our energy policy is concerned, I think the leader of the Socialist Party should go to Alberta and talk to the people out there. He would realize that this Government's energy policy promotes the interests of Alberta, and that Albertans are well aware of this, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

PETRO-CANADA**FINANCING OF PROJECTS**

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the Government said that it would privatize Petro-Canada. It did not do it. Then it said it would wait until the market was right and it never was right. Now it is saying it will privatize it when it needs money for energy projects. This really tells Canadians that they have to accept privatization or they do not get those projects.

Why is the Government coercing the Canadian public into accepting something they do not want, something that will be devastating for this country?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I wish the Liberal Party would explain what is so bad about privatizing Petro-Canada. Second, I would like to point out that the present Government will make a decision about privatizing Petro-Canada when it believes it is in the interests of Canada and Canadians to do so.

[English]

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with privatizing Petro-Canada is that if one share of Petro-Canada is sold to the private sector, it can no longer be used as an instrument of public policy. There is no way whatsoever it can be used for public policy.

Why is the Government destroying the National Energy Board? Why is the Government bent on privatizing Petro-Canada, completely abandoning the Government's role and the investment of the people of Canada in the energy sector?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at the Hon. Member's position. I always thought that asking Canadians to own shares in Petro-Canada was hardly against their interests, and in fact, this is exactly what the Quebec Liberal Party is doing with its privatization program. It goes to show that Quebec has two Liberal Parties, the Socialist one in Ottawa and one that favours private enterprise in Quebec, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

EFFECT OF CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I too have a question for the Minister of Energy. I would ask the Minister how he can rise in the House of Commons and claim there is no connection between this sellout of Petro-Canada and the trade deal with the United States when, in fact, one can see everything through the connections in pricing and through the connections in elimination of the control of our natural resources in the future. Why is the Minister prepared to sell out Petro-Canada and also tie it to the United States in a trade deal?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Socialist Party has one obsession, both in the House and outside, and that is the United States. This Government does not have that kind of obsession. It feels that Canadian policies for Canadians can serve both the interests of the United States and those of Canadians, because when we are talking about trade and the exchange of products between countries, we are talking about the interests of consumers and producers.

• (1440)

[English]

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, this is a question of the future of Canadian independence in the energy field. Why is the Minister prepared to sacrifice this instrument of Canadian initiative, Canadian potential,