

Canadianization, both for the Liberals and for the Conservatives, means privatization. The government proposes to replace large American companies with large Canadian companies. We are replacing the Rockefellers with the Gallaghers and the Blairs, all friends of the government. That is why I said that Dome had struck it rich in Ottawa. We have Petro-Canada, ready and waiting. But that is not the route that the Liberals are taking. They have chosen to go the route of the private sector. They say it will be a private Canadian sector. I even have my doubts about that. I think we will see corporate shells and we will see a lot of games being played and shuffling around so that the large multinationals which can afford to go up to the north and the off shore will still be in control of the developments there.

The main fault in Liberal Canadianization, it seems to me, is that the Canadian private sector of the energy industry has acted and will act no differently from the way the multinationals acted in the past. If we depend on the private sector, this time being Canadian, which I suppose is better in a sense than being American but not that much, we will be following the same old pattern I spoke about before. We will have the surpluses, allegedly the shortages, the tax concessions, the price increases, again the surpluses, again the shortages, again the pressure to export, and it will continue. That pattern is showing up again with natural gas, where there is pressure to export gas. Five years down the road, we will be paying higher prices for Arctic gas.

It seems to me that if the Liberals were really serious about Canadianization and about the public interest in this bill, they would bring in predominant public ownership. The reason is that predominant public ownership, through Petro-Canada, would mean that the people, through their elected representatives, their elected government, could set the course of energy development and we could get out of this Catch-22 situation that I spoke about.

We do not have to apologize for an active government presence in the energy industry because Canadians, the taxpayer and the consumer, have already financed virtually all of the expansion of the industry.

This is what the National Energy Program states at page 17:

—in general, price and tax policies have provided the industry with the cash flow necessary to finance its expenditures. This means that the oil consumer and the Canadian taxpayer have financed virtually all of the substantial expansion of this industry.

Historically, the tax system has not recouped the public investment. The value of this scarce resource will continue to go up, and this richest of industries will expand into non-energy areas.

Canada could achieve a dominant position in the oil industry by taking over Imperial Oil instead of giving \$6.5 billion in grants to the private companies. What would this accomplish? One thing it would accomplish would be the rather instantaneous achievement recognition of 50 per cent Canadian ownership, the goal of the government. The government wants 50 per cent Canadian ownership by 1990. Instead of taking this

money and giving it out in PIP grants and to Dome and Nova, that \$6.5 billion, or perhaps two-thirds of it, should be used by Petro-Canada to take a really big company like Imperial Oil under public ownership. Then the government would achieve its goal. If the government were really serious about Canadianization, that is what it would do.

It would also accomplish something else. It would accomplish what the government itself has been arguing, and what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources argues when he asks for 25 per cent equity. He says that we need 25 per cent equity because we want to be at the table and we want to have some control. If we want to be at the table and have some control, we should get 51 per cent equity and then we can really have control. If we were to do that, Petro-Canada would not be subjected to the whim of the multinationals, buying oil for its refineries, getting oil refined for its gas stations. Petro-Canada could, in fact, be like Imperial was in the past, the trend setter on prices. It might do things differently. It would be much more democratic, and we could challenge it in the House.

Therefore, the same people who got us into the mess over here, those in the Liberal Party, propose to lead us out of the mess. Their solution is to have 50 per cent Canadian ownership by 1990. It is probably a solution which any other industrialized country would consider to be too little. The Liberal Canadianization means that energy decisions will be in private hands, even though the money is largely from the public. That is no solution at all. Therefore, I call it a phony and a sham.

The real solution would be to achieve predominant public ownership. A realistic scenario would be for Petro-Canada to take over Imperial Oil so that the government could become the leader in the field. Sometimes when one expresses that view in the House of Commons, one feels very alone, as though almost the entire House, with the exception of those in the New Democratic Party, is against one. However, I submit that there is support for that position in the country and that the politicians and the government are far behind public opinion concerning this measure.

● (1810)

In June 1981, the Committee for the Canadianization of the Petroleum Industry wrote these words to the Prime Minister:

—the majority of Canadians will support a determined and effective program to bring our energy resources under Canadian, particularly public, ownership and control which ensures that these resources are developed and utilized in the best interests of the nation—

On January 24, 1982, the committee said:

—Canada's goal must be increased to at least 75 per cent Canadian ownership of the vital petroleum industry by 1985 with Petro-Canada the largest oil company in the country.

This is not what this bill is doing—no way. The committee continued:

—we strongly urge the federal government to acquire one of the four major foreign-controlled companies as a new Crown corporation or as a component of Petro-Canada.