

*Energy, Mines and Resources*

The history of Crown corporations in Canada is a long one, beginning in 1841 with the formation of the Board of Works. It was soon followed by the Nova Scotia Railway Company in 1859 and a number of harbour boards, long before Confederation.

Only this party, the NDP, and before it the CCF, consistently fought for the role of Crown corporations in Canada. However, no New Democrat in Canada would support this bill. It is truly a Trojan horse, with happy little Crown corporations on the outside, the Liberals almost not knowing what is inside the Trojan horse. But what is inside is no semblance of democratic principles or accountability.

The Conservatives I have listened to in the most recent speech generally like to attack Crown corporations—but for all the wrong reasons. They seem to forget, Mr. Speaker, that it was they who set up the CNR, the CBC, the Bank of Canada, the Canadian Wheat Board. Need I go on? They set up Ontario Hydro. The Conservatives love to attack Crown corporations, saying they are unaccountable, they are dangerous, they take business away, they destroy the business climate of Canada, they open the pork barrel. They do so, even though they know only too well about the pork barrel. It is one of the problems that the party on the government side has had difficulty in controlling—the desire to put every party member's defeated candidates on to boards, when they have no track record and no history whatsoever in relation to the field that they might be going into, whether it is energy or the National Parole Board or anything else. They have created a nest that it is very difficult to sleep in.

• (1620)

I wish to go on for a moment to something that has been raised time and again in relation to this bill. It is a concern the House should have when the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) cannot tell Canadians how many Crown corporations there are. I have a letter here dated February 8, 1982 from Treasury Board signed by H. J. Mullington, assistant secretary, Crown Corporations Division, to Michael J. Graham of the Library of Parliament. He indicates that as of February this year, the list of corporations in which the government has an interest records 306. I noted last night the Conservative member from Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe indicated there were about 170 Crown corporations.

To give the House some idea of why this bill is not required at this time when the minister is interested in Crown corporations to handle things in the energy field, let me remind the House of some of these subsidiaries of Petro-Canada which are Crown corporations.

There is Canertech Limited, Petro-Canada Consulting Corporation, Petro-Canada Exploration Inc., Asher American, Inc., Big Eagle Oil and Gas Ltd., Aquilla Holdings Ltd., Fifth Pacific Stations Ltd., GMI Co. (Bahamas) Ltd., Merit Oil Co. Ltd., Cal-Jet Holdings Ltd., Pay-N-Save Gas Stations Ltd., Opal Oils Limited, Commodore Oils Limited, Pacific Exploration Inc., Pacific Petrochemicals Ltd., Pacific Petroleum Espanola, Pacific Petroleum, Inc., Pacific Pipelines, Inc.,

Pacific Petroleum (Overseas) Limited, Petro-Canada Norway, Petro-Canada Petroleum Inc., Petro-Canada Products Inc., Petro-Canada Resources Inc., Petro-Canada (U.K.) Limited, Petrofina Canada Inc., Arctic Islands Resources Ltd., Petroleum Transmission Company, Petron Petroleum Ltd., Rocair Limited, Tri-Mountain Petroleum Ltd., Value Serve Stations Ltd., Venezuelan Canadian Oils, and Venezuelan Pacific Petroleum.

Just listing those should give members of the House some idea that it is preposterous for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to come before the House with this bill, particularly with the undemocratic principles within it, and to tell us that he wants it so that he can set up Crown corporations to handle exploration, development, production, gathering and so on when there are already pages of Crown corporations. Perhaps the boards are not big enough so that he can appoint all his buddies. Perhaps that is why it is being set up. Frankly, I cannot believe when you have that many subsidiaries in one large corporation in the energy field that you would come before the House of Commons with such a badly drafted and incredible piece of legislation that could not possibly be supported by anyone who understands democracy and takes the time to read the bill.

I will certainly be watching carefully members on that side who speak on this bill and then stand up and vote for it. I intend to make this bill an election issue in British Columbia. I will point out the sheer hypocrisy of anyone in British Columbia, if not anywhere in Canada, voting for a piece of legislation that takes away the right of the vote of every Member of Parliament.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I might indicate that if the minister is rising to speak, that will close the debate. Is the minister rising to intervene in the debate? If so, I will have to recognize another two members who want to intervene.

**Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I want to make some very brief remarks on this bill. I am not necessarily in accord with the manner in which the Crown corporations are going to be formed. I want to say something about the need for additional Crown corporations in this field.

For about eight months I sat discussing Bill C-48 in relation to the 25 per cent share of all federal Crown lands that will be assigned to either Petro-Canada or some other Crown corporation. Let me say in the House what I said in committee. I would find it very disturbing if all the holdings or ownership shares in partnerships and private companies that are going to be active on federal lands would be assigned to Petro-Canada. Petro-Canada today is so large that it does not know its front from its rear end.

The oil industry will be growing substantially on federal lands, the Labrador coast, Hibernia, Sable Island, the Beaufort Sea, the Mackenzie region, and on the west coast and in connection with the oil sands and heavy oils. To even begin to think of the 25 per cent ownership share of all these properties