

Energy Monitoring Act

done. The minister used it as a hammer to flatten the Tories, and then got rid of it before it ricocheted and flattened them.

In spite of the lack of resolve on the part of the government, an effective competition policy should be placed before Canadians. It is incredible that the government could watch concentration coming into the energy industry which it no longer controls. We listen to stories about control of our resources which indicate that we have enough for 900 years; then we hear stories which indicate that we are running out of oil quickly and that the prices should be jacked up. If the government had an ounce of resolve to protect Canadians, both those in business and consumers who depend heavily upon that material, we would have had competition legislation in the House long before now. I think the government knows for whom it dances—the banks and the oil companies. Literally we have seen examples of this in the Thirty-second Parliament. This is probably one of the most serious failures of the government. Also we had the Kent commission on concentration in the newspaper industry, and we lost that report. Rather than turning the petroleum inquiry out to the public, it was lost. This is an extremely serious problem.

There are a number of general policy goals in the energy monitoring act. One is to increase Canadian ownership. Another is to increase control in the oil and gas industry. The government should look at a method of increasing benefits to Canadians and ensuring that our resources maximize benefits to Canadians. This is the purpose of monitoring the activities of these companies and the industry; this is the purpose of Petro-Canada.

I have heard the Conservative Party criticize Petro-Canada by saying what a poor job it is doing and that it cannot be trusted. Can we trust the Liberals to run anything? A good job could be done.

An hon. Member: That is the point.

Mr. Skelly: My hon. colleague has conceded the point. What we are basically looking for is an assurance of Canadian benefits through this legislation.

● (1700)

We have heard many discussions in the House about major projects, megaprojects and the tar sands and how this area will be the one which will bail us out, employ Canadians and start the economy moving again. There are opportunities in offshore development. A subject we have talked about many times in the House is the need to monitor the activities of energy companies in Canada with respect to offshore development. There has been no attempt in Canada to develop a marine industrial strategy which would utilize the development of those resources to guarantee benefits, jobs and additional income for Canadians. We have seen companies like Dome Petroleum in the oil resource sector turn around and sell access to the oil in the Beaufort Sea to the Japanese. We have seen one quarter of that oil given over. We have watched the Japanese, in anticipation of obtaining that oil, build one of the world's largest icebreaking oil tankers. We are seeing opportunities going to the Europeans and the Japanese for sourcing the equipment required for projects such as the LNG, the

Arctic pilot projects and the Rim gas project. Of course, jobs flow out in that direction as well.

With respect to coal, Federal Commerce and Navigation are building their ships in Europe and the Orient. This is all free enterprise in action. Where are Canadians? Are the Conservatives standing up in the House demanding that they stop doing this? Where is the monitoring of the activities of the energy companies involved in coal, gas and oil while the benefits seem to be going abroad?

Whenever we ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Gray) what he is doing about jobs for Canadians shipbuilders, he stands up and tells us to look at the Burrard dry dock which cost \$50 million. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, it was built in Japan. What about the floating dry dock that went into the Beaufort Sea for Dome Petroleum? Of course, that was built in Japan too. We are literally paying, through incentives and subsidies in this country, to send jobs for shipbuilders offshore. We are failing to develop one of the most advanced marine industries in the world by not capturing those benefits.

We are failing to do this through the energy monitoring act, monitoring the activities of those energy corporations and their organizations, monitoring the financial transactions to ensure that we capture the benefits and ensure that Canadians maximize those benefits. When we talk about maximizing benefits, we mean ensuring that the environment is preserved and enhanced and that social benefits accrue to Canadians—not just to central Canada and the major centres but to those traditional smaller and rural communities as well. That is vitally important. The hon. member from Atlantic Canada who just spoke I am sure would agree that there are many communities there which would want to share in that last bang at the resource and be left with a permanent and positive legacy.

The monitoring agency, the Canadian Oil and Gaslands Administration, has virtually left a vacuum in attempting to ensure that social and economic benefits are captured, retained and enhanced in Canada. With respect to the industrial benefits office, we listened to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Regional Economic Expansion and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources swear up and down before the committee to trust them. What a joke. "Trust me, I am from the government and I am here to help you", he said. That is the call of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Throughout Bill C-48 we found nothing but ministerial discretion and nothing in the history of that government since its inception on which any trust could be built. Nevertheless, the majority rammed it through. We were promised an office of industrial benefit comparable to the British offshore supply office which helped to ensure effective monitoring of what those energy corporations were doing and that there were transactions between the British free enterprise companies and