

Oral Questions

going on and had been going on for that long. I am not sure of that.

REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE OF CANADIAN OWNERSHIP

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Dome Petroleum is now the largest owner of energy reserves in western Canada. If it falls into the control of a foreign corporation, it will automatically increase foreign ownership of this sector in Canada from 40 per cent to 50 per cent. Will the Minister guarantee to the House that Dome Petroleum will remain in Canadian hands?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I repeat, for the benefit of the Leader of the New Democratic Party, that we live in a free enterprise system in this country and that it is therefore up to Dome to consider, first of all, its responsibility to its employees and its shareholders.

● (1430)

[English]

ELECTION CAMPAIGN PROMISE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Minister that, for the New Democratic Party, Canada, as a nation, is not for sale no matter what the Tories might think.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: I see that the Prime Minister is smiling. Since it was the Prime Minister who promised in the election campaign to make decisions in the Canadian interest in the energy sector will he live up to his promise and guarantee that Dome Petroleum will remain in Canadian hands? That is the issue.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am well aware that the Leader of the New Democratic Party has aided and abetted the Liberal Party in its attempts to socialize Canada's energy industry, and we have seen the problems this has caused, especially for Dome. In this respect, I can give the Hon. Member the assurance that so far, Canada's present energy policy has been instrumental in increasing the proportion of Canadianization in the industry.

Mr. Broadbent: And now the Minister wants to sell the biggest corporation in the industry in Canada, in the west. That is something we in the New Democratic Party cannot accept.

REQUEST THAT DECISION BE TAKEN BY CABINET AND JUSTIFIED IN HOUSE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my last question to the Minister is as follows: This decision may cost the taxpayer \$2.4 billion. Can the Minister guarantee the decision will be one that is made by Cabinet, and that Cabinet will justify that decision before the House?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has nothing to sell as far as Dome is concerned because he does not own Dome Petroleum. So I think we should get this quite clear: the Government is not putting Dome up for sale.

Second, the Hon. Member is well aware of Dome's financial difficulties. If he is at all interested in Canada's energy policy and in the people employed by Dome, he should emulate the Government by securing our gas and energy reserves and protecting the jobs of the people working for Dome.

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

TAKEOVER OF CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the takeover of Canadian Pacific Airlines by Pacific Western Airlines. This particular takeover was endorsed and approved by the Prime Minister's Government. We now know that 3,000 jobs may be lost as a result of it. Most of these jobs are in western Canada.

Why did the Prime Minister's Government approve this takeover when he knew, or ought to have known, that it was not in the public interest, and when he knew, or ought to have known, that 3,000 jobs may be lost?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman as usual is quite inaccurate in what he says. This takeover of Canadian Pacific by Pacific Western had to go to the Canadian Transport Commission which dealt with the question of whether or not it was in the public interest. It found it to be in the public interest. I would take the view and the opinion of a quasi-judicial tribunal that does not deal in rhetoric but in fact, in logic and rational application of the law to the facts, over the hon. gentleman's opinion any day in the week.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MEMORANDUM PROJECTING JOB LOSSES

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, we are not dealing with opinion; we are dealing with fact.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!