

*Government Orders*

Affairs made in the House on October 10, at page 13995 of *Hansard*:

This initial public offering will create a broad market for the company's shares—The net proceeds of future sales of the government shares will be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

If we are going to take the rest of the shares owned by the taxpayers, sell them, and return that money to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, where is this huge new pool of equity that we say Petro-Canada will then be able to exploit? If we are not going to take at least \$3.5 billion out of the equity markets before we pay out the Consolidated Revenue Fund, then we will be engaging in a raid on that fund of historic proportions.

But assuming we get all that back, and assuming we have soaked the equity markets for between \$4 billion and \$5 billion in this Petro-Canada issue, where in the name of sweet reason does the member believe even further equity for the corporation is going to come from?

**Mr. James:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member mentioned, certainly the treasury issue is going immediately to PetroCan so it can use those dollars for investment.

He did not say the secondary issues would go to the Consolidated Revenue Fund which will certainly lower the government's need to borrow in the future. Additionally, we are going to the private sector for investment along the way. There will be an infusion as people buy in, of course, and those moneys will be used.

I do not know what else he would want to take from that. The main thrust is to provide equity, other than the areas that we are mentioning where we would have to have taxpayers' money go directly. It needs an infusion of cash. It needs an infusion of equity. It needs that money to go out and explore. That has been stated. The kind of figures that were mentioned is in the billions of dollars. That will be done by privatization that is going to take place. He knows that, and Canadians know that. Canadians are very happy that they are going to have the opportunity to invest in this company.

What is important with all the other companies that are around in Canada is that now they will know that will have an integrated oil and gas company that is going to

be competing as a private enterprise, rather than one that is supported, if need be, by the Government of Canada. That is pretty important and it will probably make them cut their costs and be more competitive.

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to enter this debate today, not because I support the privatization of Petro-Canada. On the contrary, I strongly oppose this legislation and will vote against it at all stages. Rather, I am pleased to enter this debate because I think it is time that the Canadian people, and more importantly, the government opposite, take the time to discuss the public policy role being served by Crown corporations in our country and that we take the time to understand the true values of the collective needs of the country.

Just when the potential for gouging Canadian oil and gas consumers by foreign owned and controlled oil companies is at its highest point in more than a decade, the government opposite is moving to privatize our national oil company. If ever there was a time in a way for the government to be involved in the oil industry, it is now. That can best be achieved through the Crown corporation we already own.

New Democrats have frequently and incorrectly been labelled as the party that wanted to own everything, but that is far from the truth. In fact, as has been shown by our highly successful provincial governments, New Democrats believe strongly in the mixed marketplace, a marketplace run by the private sector, the co-operative sector, and the public sector working together.

The New Democratic Party was created from a foundation established by the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, the CCF, in Saskatchewan. In 1944 the CCF under its then leader, and a great Canadian, Tommy Douglas, formed the government and, of course, at that time worried all of Canada about what it might do. Those worries proved fruitless.

Tommy Douglas was always a man ahead of his time. When the CCF formed the government in 1944, he clearly outlined his plans and I quote from his memoirs:

When we talked about a co-operative commonwealth, we had in mind a mixed economy combining public ownership, co-operative ownership, and private ownership. In our opinion, those industries that