We can see in the future that in the private sector it will be even easier for this to happen again. It will be easier to create artificial shortages and to increase prices. In terms of the ability to market the product, who knows how loose it will get. In terms of our experience with the previous uranium cartel it is important that this company not be passed into the private sector, and that it remain under the control of the Government of Canada and that the Government use great care in supervising its activities.

There is another example of the type of scrutiny that the previous Government gave with respect to the question of cartels. In the past we saw a question with respect to oil companies, another energy group in which there was a massive inquiry conducted by the Director of Competition, Mr. Bertrand. In the final analysis the Government took no action except to organize an inquiry which cost the taxpayers of Canada hundreds of thousands of dollars.

With respect to any protection the Government might give in terms of Eldorado becoming involved in a monopoly or a cartel type operation, it is clear that the Government has no effective competition legislation. It has no political will to protect the people of Canada in any way whatsoever. We want the report on the previous uranium cartel. We want effective action in terms of controlling situations such as that before the question of privatization is even asked.

With respect to tailings, my colleagues have pointed out that we are dealing with 100 million tonnes of nuclear waste. We have no effective method of dealing with this waste. We are prepared to put into the environment radioactive wastes and saddle future generations with them for God knows what length of time. The Government is quite prepared to extend uranium mining, as are other Conservative Governments in Canada. This will generate 200 million tonnes or 300 million tonnes of waste before an effective plan of disposing of it is developed. Thus it would be completely irresponsible, and we are not saying that the Government is not completely irresponsible, to consider the privatization of this particular company before we resolve the issue of radioactive tailings and radioactive wastes. Those questions have to be resolved before any rational Government or any rational individual in the Government ever considers turning that company over to the private sector.

Not only is the Government not prepared to deal with the question of the safe storage of those wastes in order to protect Canadians and future generations of Canadians, it is quite prepared to offer inducements to go ahead and to expand the activity. There is a great deal of concern in British Columbia in this respect. There has been a moratorium on the activity in that province. There is a fear that we will see uranium mining again in British Columbia. We will see expanded uranium mining in Saskatchewan. The Government is extremely enthusiastic about the prospect of creating a much larger—

Mr. Hawkes: It is called jobs.

Mr. Skelly: —danger to Canadians. The Hon. Member opposite says that is called jobs, these dangers which are being created for Canadians. That is an issue which the Hon. Member's Party ought to be going to the polls on. There are millions of Canadians who want nothing to do with the nuclear industry. They say that Canada and the world will be safer if we were well out of it. The hypocritical position that has been taken on this nuclear issue cannot be tolerated. If the Hon. Member thinks that the majority of Canadians are looking for jobs in this sector, he should get out on the hustings because he is absolutely dead wrong, the result is very clear, and Canadians will tell you that.

• (1750)

My colleagues, the Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) and the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), and other people who have spoken in this House have spoken with great concern about the fact that Canadian uranium which we suggest is strictly for peaceful purposes is a major component in the nuclear weapons race in the world.

We are selling it to France, we are selling it to the United States, and we are working behind a facade that says; "Our uranium is being used for peaceful purposes", when in reality that uranium forms part of an enrichment process that follows a fuel cycle into nuclear bombs. There is no doubt that we as Canadians have dirty hands in this business. If the wishes of Canadians were followed, that Canada would be a nuclear weapons free zone, we would not produce the material that nuclear weapons are made of. It is one thing to produce it and sell it to somebody else and say "What a dirty bunch they are", but in reality we have dirty hands on this issue, or the previous Liberal Government did and now the Conservative Government definitely has dirty hands on this issue.

The previous Government sold India a package from which it built a nuclear weapon. The previous Government proposed to sell to some of the foremost countries in the world, countries at that time operating with a tremendously high moral standard such as Argentina and Brazil. They talked about selling nuclear weapons to South Korea, Taiwan, and to a number of other countries that were quite excited about producing nuclear weapons, if they had been given the opportunity. They probably lost out in the competition because of more successful weapons merchants through the guise of nuclear plants. But certainly Canada is involved in supplying materials for nuclear weapons and Canadians are totally opposed to that. If it read the population and the electorate correctly, the Government would know that this is the case and that this should stop.

On the issue of occupational health and safety, the unions involved are absolutely opposed to those sales in privatization. The unions are concerned that if the Government walks away from this industry, standards will relax and the workers lives and their families will be jeopardized. In Canada we know the massive problem of occupational health and safety. In this