

and Conservative parties have participated in for over 50 years.

The Liberals have governed the longest and have been the most guilty. Every once in a while they try to recover and repent.

An hon. Member: Just before an election.

Mr. Benjamin: They only half repent, and they do that just before an election. The problem is their half repentance is just before an election and it has meant most times their survival. That is the other problem. I have a great deal of admiration and respect for my friends in the Liberal party.

An hon. Member: Better a live dreamer than a dead duck.

Mr. Benjamin: I do not agree with 90 per cent of what the Liberals do and say, but they are pretty good guys. But they place their own survival on their death bed repents in last gasp desperation efforts to survive. That sort of thing has been placed ahead of what is best for our country and for our people. I hope that the Conservatives do not believe that the Liberals all of a sudden have gone wild eyed left wing radicals with a bill like this. If that makes them wild eyed left wing radicals, it must make the Conservative party left of centre as well.

The Liberals have always bragged about being in the middle and going down the middle of the road. They still do not understand or realize that all the action takes place in the middle of the road. You cannot have it both ways, and that is what this government is trying to do. It is trying to maintain a multinational control over our petroleum resources. We hear it said, "Leave it to them", but only when we get into some kind of an emergency, which on the surface appears temporary. Then we hear it said, "maybe we will have to step on some toes." But never mind, Gulf will still send \$28,000 to the Tory party. One cannot expect a Conservative member of parliament to kick Gulf around. Imperial Oil was a cheapskate; it sent only \$2,700 to the Liberals a few years ago.

An hon. Member: I wonder why.

Mr. Benjamin: Canadian Pacific—PanCanadian Petroleum—which serves us in so many ways, sent \$3,600 to the Grits, but CP Hotels sent another "thou". This illustrates that when a political party of any complexion or stripe goes through these kinds of exercises—more for the purposes of their own survival than in the best interests of our nation, people, and resources—surely that is some kind of betrayal of the honourable and worth-while profession of politics.

I have said that about my friends in the Liberal party. My friends in the Conservative party have been no better, in fact they have been worse. They started out like gangbusters against this legislation. When they realized the faux pas they had pulled off, evidenced by the temporary public mood, they acted like a stud horse, which is turned into the pasture. It sniffs the wind to find out where the mares are, and whichever way the wind blows that is the way to go. In other words, it is

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one thing today and something else tomorrow. We usually shift those kinds of animals to the slaughterhouse; they might make good dog meat. But they cannot have it both ways either. They cannot say at the beginning of a debate that this legislation is socialistic and dictatorial, etc., etc., and then all of a sudden fold up like a bunch of let-out balloons—

An hon. Member: Paper tigers.

Mr. Benjamin: —starting as of last night. Not only are they paper tigers but they have not been able to meow as loud as the minister has.

Surely this is an opportunity for this parliament in some reasonable, unanimous way, to take hold of this part of our rich resources to say, "They are ours". We should say that we will hire Imperial, Texaco and Gulf to do whatever job we need done to suit our needs. But everything must be ours, to own and control. This will make everyone feel proud to be a Canadian. This will do as much for national unity and confederation as a lot of other things the Liberals and Tories try to talk about. It is pride in our nationhood, in our capacity, in our own resources and what we can do, instead of sitting around kissing the backsides of foreign companies and foreign countries and having foreign investment. This is just like a hound-dog sitting on a cactus with needles up its backside, howling. All we need to do is to get up and do it ourselves.

We will support this legislation. We hoped the government would have accepted our amendments to make it more meaningful and stronger. I hope it is not a temporary aberration on its part. I hope it is a permanent policy whether or not the Liberals are in government or whether they win the next election. Surely that is a direction in which every political party in this country worthy of being called a Canadian political party has to go. We may use different methods. We may have different ideas about how to do it, but surely there can be no argument about what we have to do as a nation. We must take control, direct and own our own resources. If we do any less than that we cannot survive as a self-respecting sovereign country.

I hope the Conservatives will complete their conversion on this short road of opposition, and support the legislation as well, despite whatever inadequacies there are in it. I hope this government will act on it and use it. No longer should Canadians be embarrassed in front of one another, or in front of people in other countries. We can do it even better with more than this kind of legislation, but let us make do with this for now.

● (2150)

[Translation]

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to take part in the debate on third reading of Bill C-42, an act to provide a means to conserve the supplies of energy within Canada during periods of national emergency caused by shortages or market disturbances affecting the national security and welfare and the economic stability of Canada.