

Petro-Canada

Selling out would sell us out

HALIFAX (CUP)—Taxpayers put up millions to start Petro-Canada and now Joe Clark wants to sell off the profitable portions of the company, Ed Broadbent told 200 students at Mount St. Vincent University, September 11.

"Progressive Conservative plans to sell all of Petro-Canada's assets except jurisdiction over state to state bargaining, domestic offshore and tar sands development, would undermine a remarkably successful enterprise," he said.

The government owned oil company generates most of its profits from shared drill sites all over the world and Pacific Petroleum, its retail operation in Western Canada.

The NDP leader discounted the suggestion of dismantling Petro-Canada and making shares available to the public as was recently done with a provincially owned resource company in British Columbia. "This would only narrow its base of ownership", he said. "You and I already own it. What do we want to sell it for?"

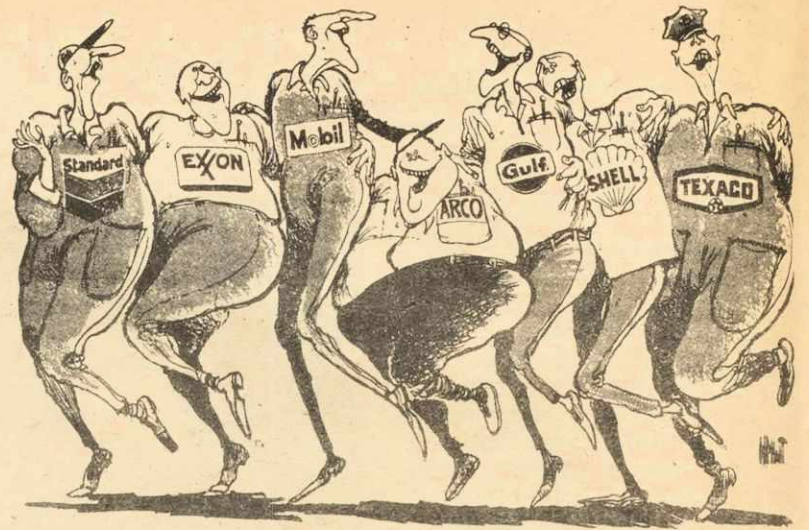
He repeated criticism of the study group established to review the oil company's

holdings and recommend how to dismantle the company. Study group chairperson Donald McDougald is on leave from his job as president of Labatt Brewing Company. Labatt's is owned by Brascan who have publicly stated an interest in acquiring some of Petro-Canada's assets.

Broadbent also said the federal Bureau of Competition Policy is investigating Canada's Big 4 oil companies (Texaco, Gulf, Shell and Imperial) on charges of conspir-

acy in their refining and marketing operations. The investigation was initiated in 1973 and should be completed in the spring. "This plus Canada's obvious dependence on foreign oil make now precisely the wrong time to sell off a company that has been so successful," he said.

He said that if Joe Clark wants to govern like he had a majority, he should listen to the majority of Canadians from all parts of the country and keep Petro-Canada.



Students write in about cutbacks

OTTAWA (CUP)—The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) will conduct a postcard campaign as the main feature of their fall program against cutbacks in educational spending.

The campaign, adopted by the OFS at its June 1 meeting in Thunder Bay, will be conducted in the first few weeks of September.

This move has been timed to precede the expected announcement of new tuition and grant assistance policies later this fall.

"We think that they will

make an announcement in October, but they might make a decision and keep it under their hats," said Jay Drydyck, an OFS researcher.

The new policies are expected to deal with the recommendations of the P.S. Ross report, a report commissioned last year by the provincial government to look into possible changes in the tuition levels paid by Ontario students.

If accepted, many of the report's recommendations would result in large tuition increases in the province.

The report dealt with proposals to index tuition fees to the cost of education, to institute fee differentials for different programs, and to "unpeg" tuition levels giving administrators at individual institutions the power to set tuition levels as high as they please.

If tuition levels were indexed to the cost of education, they would automatically rise every year.

The actual starting cost and the subsequent increases would depend upon the percentage amount of costs that tuition fees would be expected

to account for.

With tuition levels set at 20%, a level that has been suggested by several university administrators, the average university, undergraduate tuition could reach the \$1,400 mark by the 1984/85 academic year.

The report indicated that many college administrators felt that 15% was a reasonable amount of the total cost of education for college students to pay through tuition fees.

If this is accepted, the average college tuition level could rise to \$800 by the mid 1980's.



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