

*Government Orders**[English]*

I am obligated to ask the House if there is unanimous consent for the proposal of the motion put forward by the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway.

Is there unanimous consent?

For the third time, is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimous consent. Orders of the Day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS
*[Translation]***PETRO-CANADA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACT****MOTION FOR TIME ALLOCATION AT SECOND-READING STAGE**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. McDermid (p.).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Resuming debate on the motion for time allocation. The hon. member for Laurentides.

Mr. Jacques Vien (Laurentides): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you before the House on your recent appointment to the elevated position of Assistant Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole of the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, in 1975 it took four days to adopt the second-reading stage of the bill to establish Petro-Canada.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in my place to support this legislation authorizing the sale of shares of Petro-Canada to the general public. Today, I would like to discuss how this proposed transaction fits into the broader approach to privatization which has been followed by the government since 1984.

In the past six years the government has issued an economic policy based on less government involvement in the private sector and more disciplined use of taxpayers' resources. Privatization is a key component of that policy.

At last count, the Canadian government owned 53 Crown corporations, 113 subsidiary Crown corporations, and had partial holdings in a number of other firms. This is after having successfully privatized 13 Crown corporations and Crown holdings, and five mixed-ownership corporations. Some of these include Canadair, an aircraft manufacturer; Teleglobe Canada, our overseas telecommunication carrier; and, of course, Air Canada, Canada's largest airline which was sold through two public shares offerings to over 100,000 shareholders.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it took four days to adopt the bill to establish Petro-Canada in 1975, and this was under the Liberal government.

[English]

The success of Canada's approach to privatization is due largely to the fact that it reflects our country's unique demographic, economic, political, and historical circumstances.

Consider for a moment the disparity between our geography and our population. Canada is the largest country in the western hemisphere. Its total area is almost 3.8 million square miles, compared to the U.S. with 3.6 million square miles. We have a population of only 26 million, one-tenth of that of the U.S.A.

Mr. Volpe: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): One moment, please. The hon. member for Eglinton—Lawrence, on a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Volpe: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the debate you raised a question of leeway that you would allow in debate with respect to time allocation and the kinds of principles we might introduce when talking about the points with respect to this motion.

When we were debating, I think you said that while you were willing to allow some sort of leeway, we were discussing time allocation. I wonder if you would feel it opportune at this moment perhaps to remind the member that the eloquence of his speech is probably more appropriate for discussion on Bill C-84, and not on time allocation where some members want to have—