

*Nordion and Theratronics*

see before this Parliament in this session. It should never be passed over lightly.

As my colleague has just stated, the Government of Canada has come up with two Crown corporations and passed them over for sale.

• (1710)

This Bill will pave the way for that sale of the radio medical isotope industry in this country, and of the cancer therapy units and all its related research to private enterprise in this country. All this research that is now up for sale by this Government has been created by public funds. It has been created through the excellent research and development over the years by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Of all the comments we hear about radiation and nuclear energy today, it is without a doubt the most progressive factor and factors which have happened in our modern day society. The research was done basically at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. The radio medical isotope industry became very profitable. We have produced 60 per cent of the world's supply. We sell around the world. We are well known for a first class product.

The cancer therapy units are also well known around the world. All we have to do is take a look at the background of these two companies which have been created in those two medical areas and we will find that the sales are basically international. All this research which was done in the background, we are selling it to private enterprise. What is John Q. Public getting in return? What is Atomic Energy of Canada, as the senior parent company, getting in return? They are getting absolutely zero. That is a crime.

This Government is stealing from the Canadian public by selling these two Crown corporations with nothing to show in return. This is a government which says to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited: "You have to pay your way or we are not going to give you any money. However, while you are trying to pay your way what we are going to do is take away all those profit-making ventures which you have created on your research money over the years". Then the Government turns around after robbing the bank and says: "Now pay your way." It

is like sending someone out to the bank on behalf of the Minister responsible for the Treasury Board, taking out his entire bank account and saying: "Now you've got to pay your mortgage".

This Bill today, with these two very important medical institutions being sold to private enterprise at large, is a sin.

Theratronics International Limited has done fantastic work in research on cancer and on the treatment of cancer. It is well known around the world, well tried and safe, in spite of all the gossip we hear to the contrary about the nuclear industry today for peaceful purposes. Atomic Energy of Canada deals in it for peaceful purposes. Radio medical isotopes are used in many areas of the medical field. Indeed, they are used in other areas as well in the form of isotopes.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) sent a telex into my constituency during the election campaign of 1984. He stated that not only would the government under his prime ministership keep paying and keep contributing to research and development in Atomic Energy of Canada Limited at the same level, but it would consider improving it. That was his commitment in 1984. In February of 1985, when the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) brought in his Budget, what did he do? Condoned by Cabinet, he brought in a \$100 million cut for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. That was the way the Prime Minister of Canada kept his promise.

Then, as the Government kept taking money out, it not only took that \$100 million out—it still has a year or so to go on it depending what decision the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Epp) gives here—but it also lifted \$70 million out of the reserve fund to the company. Not only is the Government selling off two very profitable areas, set out on life by AECL, but it is also taking money right out of the bank of the corporation itself. Then the Government turns around and has the nerve to say: "Pay your way". No businessman can run an operation in that way. These people are supposed to be business heads over here. I do not know where they got their experience with that kind of philosophy floating around today.