

*Government Orders*

he cannot see why Canada is selling off its natural resources the way it is. He said that most of that natural gas during the summer months is being pumped back into the depleted fields in California to replenish their own reserves. He said, "Let me assure you that 20 years from now we will have natural gas and you will not have any".

I look at the number of rigs that are down in Canada at the present time, and the fact that this government is going to sell off this Crown corporation that was set up to develop and explore the Canada Lands, the Arctic and the offshore. I find it inconceivable and not at all acceptable that we should be heading in this direction and leaving future generations of Canadians wondering where their fuel supplies are going to come from.

In conclusion, I have no alternative but to vote against this bill. I have no alternative but to look at what has happened in the oil industry. I have no alternative but to look at what has happened in Alberta itself where 60 per cent of the oil well service industries that were in business in 1984 are now non-existent. I have no alternative but to encourage my colleagues on this side of the House to vote against this legislation. We should be looking to expanding the mandate into the renewable fuels. We should be taking the initiative and the lead to make sure this happens as quickly as possible, to give the farmers in western Canada an income, to provide a market for those millions of tonnes of grain that are out there at the present time, and also to provide a high level of protein feed suitable for livestock at a reasonable cost to keep our livestock industry competitive with that of the rest of the world.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Questions and comments. The hon. member for Manicouagan.

• (1800)

[*English*]

**Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Manicouagan):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address some of the comments my colleague for Lambton—Middlesex made regarding the mandate that he would like to see for Petro-Canada.

Of course, the wide range of subjects, items, and proposals that he outlined for a mandate for Petro-Canada is quite valuable. I would agree to that. But why, in his mind, would it be impossible for Petro-Canada to have the same mandate and attain the same goals that he has been talking about, being owned by Canadians shareholders, instead of the Government of Canada?

Why would it be impossible for the shareholders of Petro-Canada, a majority of whom will be Canadian citizens, to give that same mandate to Petro-Canada in a competitive and economic environment that will level the playing-field for Petro-Canada, while at the same time, not having to live under the government and all the restrictions that it imposes?

I feel personally that it would be much easier for Petro-Canada, if it had such a mandate, to have access to more research and development, and new sources of funds, being owned by Canadian shareholders—the Canadian public—and not having to live with the restriction imposed by government ownership. I would like to hear the member's comments.

**Mr. Ferguson:** Mr. Speaker, I think the record speaks for itself in that there is only one oil company that is proceeding at the present time into the area of renewable fuels and that is Mohawk Oil. It is doing that in co-operation and in partnership with the Saskatchewan Pool Elevators in the Province of Saskatchewan.

It was tried in Ontario a few years ago by United Co-operatives of Ontario in two test marketings. There was one in Listowel, Ontario, I believe it was, and the other at Guelph. Motorists were lining up at the pumps for clean fuel. It was discontinued because the oil company supplying that the gasoline that was used as a base with 10 per cent of ethanol added to it, refused to sell them any more gasoline. That is the reason.

The private oil companies want to sell oil. They are not interested in selling a gasoline that has 10 per cent ethanol involved in it, even though it may clean up the environment and even though there are other benefits that accrue to the rest of our economy.

I should also point out that this product has gained acceptance in the United States, far more than it has here because of legislation passed by Congress and the