

friend from Scarborough—Rouge River has done the same thing. We have a duty as the opposition to ensure that bills brought forward by the government are debated fully and discussed clearly, so that Canadians across this country understand what the government policy is, how these bills are going to affect them, and what a reasonable person—and there may be a few still on the other side of the House—might expect from the implementation of government policy.

We have here a situation of time allocation being placed on the bill that will end the existence of the oil company owned by the people of Canada.

I realize that there are basic philosophic differences between the party that forms the government and my party. I guess one of those basic philosophic differences has to do with the creation and the continued existence of Petro-Canada.

Back in 1973—1975 when Petro-Canada was first being formed in this country there were a variety of reasons for its formation. Those reasons hold good today. Every member who sits on this side of the House recognizes that. I suspect, in spite of the differences in policy, that many of the members on the other side of the House—perhaps most particularly those members who come from eastern Canada and there are still a few of them left—will remember why Petro-Canada was formed and why it was created.

The hon. member for Erie who spoke just before me said that it was not formed to lower gas prices. I believe it was the hon. member for Athabasca who said that it was not formed to pump gas for Canadians. These are specific and small minded responses to the creation of a national oil company. A Crown corporation was formed so that the Canadian people could have a piece of the action in whatever the future held in energy policy in this country.

If pumping gas was a part of it, so be it. By using it as a hedge against oil prices because of the problems in the gulf or because of other problems that have happened from time to time and will continue to happen given the unstable political situation in the Middle East, that is what Petro-Canada is for. It is to carry out the public policies on energy, to the benefit of the Canadian

people. It is to carry out the will of the Canadian people with regard to energy policy.

It is not—and I fear this is one of the reasons that we see a time allocation motion before us today—a corporation that falls in line with American policy on energy and it is not a corporation that falls in line with the new style energy policy put forward by this government which again is one that says: “whatever the Americans want, we are prepared to give it to them; whatever the Americans need, we are prepared to see they have it.” Eastern Canadians suffer, particularly Atlantic Canadians, Nova Scotians and Prince Edward Islanders in my region, from world oil prices and from the enforced purchase of oil from foreign sources.

Thirteen times this government has inflicted closure and six times it has inflicted time allocation, stifling debate for a total of nineteen times. It is not good enough.

The minister sits there and smiles. I suggest that the minister and those members will smile on the other side of their faces when the Canadian people have the opportunity to say what they feel about the stifling of the debate, when the Canadian people have the opportunity to tell this government what they feel about democracy and about the tearing down of their institutions.

The expression was used that the infrastructure of Canada is being systematically destroyed by this government. Every single one of the members of the government is a part of the systematic destruction of this country. The people of Canada and members on this side of the House will not stand by and let this destruction take place without response. This is our response. These measures are Draconian. There is only one word to say, and that word is shame.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.