

*Energy Monitoring Act*

information that is stored abroad by the parent or affiliated company of a Canadian company. Another recommendation in the report pointed out that one third of the domestic crude oil supply in Canada was held by the same gang of four that had concentrated control over Canadian energy supplies. Also, the control of the pipelines by the same group blocked access of new entrants into the field, those which the Tories would see us bring onstream and which may be of great assistance.

But what is advocated in that report is action. Again we find recommendations that all petroleum pipelines under federal jurisdiction be actively regulated to ensure that anyone seeking to ship special or batched streams of crude oil receives non-discriminatory access to pipelines in a fashion that ensures that communications between crude oil shippers regarding pipeline operations are reduced to a minimum. Also the report recommended that legislation be enacted requiring all major integrated oil companies to divest their holdings in existing pipelines which are subject to federal jurisdiction, and that no major oil company be permitted to acquire a controlling interest in any such new pipeline.

• (1650)

The Alberta petroleum marketing commission modified its limitation on the number of eligible purchases to Alberta crude oil. Then it dealt with the area of refining. Recommendations developed from there that legislation be enacted requiring that all refiners operating in Canada obtain the approval of the National Energy Board for all refinery supply agreements affecting interprovincial and international trade and exchange. Before approving such agreements, the board must consult with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs as to the likely effect of the agreement upon competition. We have a minister in charge of energy, mines and resources who is governing energy aspects in Canada, we have four major oil companies which seem to be controlling the entire industry, and we have a Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs who has done absolutely nothing to protect Canadian consumers.

Perhaps 1971 would be the starting point. At that time there was an attempt in the country to introduce a competition policy. Of course, the onslaught from the business community, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the oil companies ensured that the competition was buried very deep, along with the minister of consumer and corporate affairs of the day. There were several more attempts to bring forward effective competition legislation to govern the activities of oil companies and ensure that they did not destroy competition or other enterprises coming into the field with their market power. Those pieces of legislation went down under the juggernaut of Canadian business—the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, banks and major oil companies—and of course the support of the Conservative Party went with them. This put away forever an opportunity for competition legislation.

In 1979 when the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) was interviewed in *Business Week* magazine, he said that the business community should have no fear because

competition, as far as the Conservative Party was concerned, was a backburner issue. I guess that was the last statement of the Conservative Party on the issue. Perhaps it would still see the concentrated efforts of major oil companies controlling Canadian business and exploiting Canadian consumers in the manner outlined in the report on the state of competition in the petroleum industry.

Today we have the situation where we are looking for competition legislation in the House. For the last two years the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has been suggesting that he is interested in protecting the Canadian consumer. At one point he said in the House that if there were agreement on bringing forward the legislation, he would have it in the House within two weeks. The minister is nothing but talk. Canadian consumers will be left out to dry, because essentially the Liberal Party has no more intention to control the big four than the Conservative Party has.

As far as the interest of the government in protecting consumers is concerned, it is interesting to note that the report "The State of Competition in the Canadian Petroleum Industry," was dragged out until Bill C-48 was placed before the House. The report was ready for delivery months before it was presented. By presenting or even making that information public there is a certain amount of restraint placed upon the blatant activities of the companies. A certain courage has developed within those who have been exploited to come forward, to complain and to demand action. Presumably the minister, with the support of Cabinet, decided to delay it. We watched week after week as the Conservative Party went insane in the House, screaming and hollering about inequities of Bill C-48, and then suddenly defending oil companies from one week to the next. Then we saw the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs dropping this little jewel, the report on the state of competition in the oil industry, square on the Tory program of supporting the oil companies. Of course, it dropped them to their knees for several days.

This group of people in the House of Commons supported and advocated the benefits of more freedom of activity for a group of companies which essentially ripped \$12 billion out of the pockets of Canadians consumers between 1958 and 1973, but only for two days. They managed to cover their tracks, tear the report to pieces and quickly move on. Rather than do anything constructive about the report, looking seriously at taking Imperial Oil into the Petro-Canada group and making it the strongest and most dominant oil company in the country, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs did nothing. Before doing anything serious about implementing any of the recommendations, the great jellyfish, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, turned around and handed the report to a travelling road show to lose somewhere in the backwoods of Canada. This is exactly what happened. The Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has been touring the country, thumping the drum and having a whale of a time. There is no one in the House who seriously believes, when the report comes back from the commission that anything will be