

*Government Orders*

the taxpayers' dollars and turn over more funding to Petro-Canada.

Petro-Canada is going to lose ground at some point with its counterparts in the oil industry. I think that is a known fact. It is time for the Canadian government to get out of the business of pumping gas at the service stations. That is not what its business is about. Its business is about creating the climate for investment so that Canadians and other people can take part in the investment in Canada. The government sees this bill being held up for political reasons only. It is being held up only to create an insecure feeling with the Canadian people.

This is an opportunity for Canadians to own a piece of a large Canadian oil company. The legislation will limit the ownership levels and will not be taken over by foreign control. The government has other ways to control the oil industry in Canada in ways that it wants to do. The discussions that go on in this House are repeated over and over again. All the opposition is attempting to do with this very important piece of legislation is hold it up. We know it, they know it on the opposite side. My friends over there know exactly what they want to do. They want to force this government to use closure or time allocation. That is all they have been doing since coming back in 1988.

• (1210)

Petro-Canada was created in 1970 by the Liberal government. We were told at that time that a state oil company was needed to achieve a number of objectives. It is my believe that the objectives that were outlined when Petro-Canada was formed are no longer necessary today. We can control those objectives. The monitoring can be done through the agencies that have been established since and we have a better understanding of the oil industry today.

My time is up, Mr. Speaker, but I want to say very clearly, and I will put on the record again, that time allocation was used 25 times in 1980 to 1984. Time allocation was used 20 times from 1984 to 1988. Each government in a four-year period has used closure twice.

There has been an increase since taking office in 1988 because that opposition over there, both the Liberal and the NDP, have very clearly signalled its intention to force this government to use closure or time allocation at every opportunity. The other side appears to be using

tactics similar to the tactics we see in the Liberal Senate. It is not going to work here because we have rules here, not like the Senate, where they do not have the rules.

**Mr. Joe Fontana (London East):** Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader talks of process and rules. I think it would be fair to say that not only does the process stink, but the rules that this government wishes to impose not only on this House but the people of Canada stink.

Not only is it being irresponsible in moving time allocation as it is at this particular issue, but as it has on most fundamental issues that have come forward in this country. It is a disgusting display, I suggest to you, of arrogance and disrespect and disregard for the traditions, not only of the House but for the rights of the people.

This government really has the gall to attack the Senate for its undemocratic nature, then runs roughshod over this House day in and day out. To tell the truth, it makes the Senate look like a poodle compared to the pit bull tactics it uses each and every day.

I suggest that the people of Canada, the man and woman on the street, understand that this government is abusing the power of the majority, abusing the power of Parliament, and abusing the power of government. The rules are made to be respected. They have to be fair and not abused.

Essentially this government has abused the rules and the process in this House to ram through an agenda that it suggests Canadians voted on, but I suggest Canadians knew absolutely nothing about the privatization of Petro-Canada in 1988, knew absolutely nothing about the GST, and now it has the gall to stand up and say: "Oh, Canadians love what we are doing. Canadians want us to pass our legislative agenda". You know that it is a bunch of hogwash.

What really is hypocritical is that this government promotes the fact that it is telling eastern Europe and even the Soviet Union to open up, to become more democratic. What an example it is to the east European countries, and what an example it is to the Soviet Union because 15 times this session it has imposed closure. That is not democratic. That is being dictatorial, so perhaps the government should learn something from the east Europeans, such as the Soviet Union, who are starting to understand and talk about democracy. This