

Financial Administration Act

Then we have Pacific Pipelines, Inc., Pacific Petroleum (Overseas) Limited, Petro-Canada Drilling Inc., Petro-Canada Enterprises Inc., and under that we have Independent Fuels & Lumber Ltd., Joseph Elie Limitée, Marc Dufresne (1979) Inc., Petro-Canada Chemicals Inc., Petro-Canada Petroleum Inc. Under that is Arctic Islands Resources Ltd., Petro-Canada Ventures, Prairie Leaseholds Ltd., Prairie Minerals Ltd., and Xychem Inc.

Then we have a bunch of them incorporated by numbers. They have so many they cannot find names for them. First is 106616 Canada Inc., 106617 Canada Inc., 106618 Canada Inc., 106619 Canada Inc., 106620 Canada Inc. and 106621 Canada Inc. All of these are incorporated companies sitting on the shelves ready to go.

When the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) goes over to Indonesia he will tell them: "We will send Petro-Canada over to help you". They will then activate one of these companies and the taxpayers' dollars pay for it. Ordinary Canadians will then have less money to spend; it will be taxed away from them. There are seven separate federal taxes applied to oil from the time it leaves the ground until the time it gets into your gas tank. That is wrong. It is a tax grab and it leaves less money for the individual to decide how to spend. My view, Mr. Speaker, is that I will decide how to spend my money and I am not going to give it to a bunch of Grits over there to spend it. Canadians are coming around to that view and they are going to have to defeat individual members in order to get this changed.

There are more companies, Mr. Speaker. We have Petro-Canada Espanola S.A.. We are drilling in Spain. Petro-Canada Norway A/S. What are we doing in Norway? Petro-Canada Oil and Gas Inc., Petro-Canada Products Inc., Petro-Canada Resources Inc., Petro-Canada (U.K.) Limited. I guess we are drilling in the United Kingdom. Petroleum Transmission Company, Petron Petroleum Ltd., Rocair Limited, Tri-Mountain Petroleum Ltd., Value Serve Stations Ltd. We have Venezuelan Canadian Oils, which was confiscated from them by Venezuela, by the look of it. We have Venezuelan Pacific Petroleum, 103912 Canada Inc., and then we have Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation. Those are companies owned 100 per cent, and I have a list here of subsidiaries held at 50 per cent to 99 per cent, and associates held at less than 50 per cent. It goes on for page after page.

If the Liberal Cabinet wanted to put up its own money to set up this corporation, I would have no trouble at all with that. But they are using your money and mine, Mr. Speaker, and they are not using it responsibly according to the trust the Government owes to the governed.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I think it is time we had a look at Crown corporations. I am delighted that we have had a suggestion and a motion, if accepted, that this Bill be given a six-month hoist.

You may or may not remember, Mr. Speaker, that the Government, at about the same time it produced Bill C-24, put forward a brochure entitled *New Legislative Proposals for the*

Control and Accountability of Crown Corporations. The opening paragraph is revealing in that it says the federal Government believes that new measures are now required to strengthen the control and accountability of its Crown corporations. This can best be done by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of Parliament, the Government, boards of directors and managers of Crown corporations.

● (1620)

What does the Government do? The next paragraph tells us what the Government is going to do. It is going to amend the Financial Administration Act in order to strengthen the controls and accountability of Crown corporations. The Government is going to amend the Financial Administration Act, Mr. Speaker? I ask you, surely there should be what is known in French as *la loi cadre*; I do not know whether we have the same term in English. That is an acceptable term in legislative proceedings in France. It is a law which provides the base on which further constructions can be erected. It seems to me there ought to be *la loi cadre* for Crown corporations. Goodness knows, there are enough of them flying around. My friend, the Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker), listed at least some of the subsidiaries of Petro-Canada. Incidentally, he stole a bit of my thunder, Mr. Speaker, because I was going to do that. However, they are on the record and we may come back to them.

It strikes me that amending the Financial Administration Act is quite the wrong way to go about dealing with such an important aspect of Canada's economy today. Goodness knows, it needs amendment, but there should be a basic Crown Corporations Act as there once was, I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my earlier intervention during second reading of Bill C-27. It might very well have served as a better model for *la loi cadre* for Crown corporations.

I do not know for sure whether you have had a chance to look at this Bill, Sir. It is quite lengthy. It deals with the Crown corporations in a most extraordinary way. By rewriting in one particular place, it removes Part VIII of the existing Financial Administration Act, which is entitled "Crown Corporations" or "*corporations de la couronne*", and replaces it with another section which is called Part XII, "Crown Corporations" in English or "*sociétés d'état*" in French. This is really an amendment. It appears in Bill C-24 following Part II in the Financial Administration Act. Then it goes from page five to page 53. The insert is the amendment, Part XII, which deals with Crown corporations. That in itself ought to be, if it contained all what the Government were planning to do and did it properly, *la loi cadre*.

It seems to me, and I think to all clear-thinking parliamentarians, that we should have a basic law for all Crown corporations, of which there are an innumerable quantity. I use the word "innumerable" deliberately because my friend, the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn), mentioned that there were some 49 subsidiaries to CN. I have just been counting through this document and I come up with something like 75. Therefore, "innumerable" is probably the right word