

lacks the courage or the integrity to say so. That is what is happening.

What is going on in Canada today with a government that languishes for the last five months at 15 per cent in the polls, that is despised in this country, is analogous to what is happening to Kuwait. There was not an invasion. There was a democratic election. However we have a regime in Kuwait today that knows it is not staying there for very long. While they are there, the people, the army of Iraq, the army of Saddam Hussein, is plundering Kuwait. They are taking away the furniture. They are taking away the wealth of the nation. They are stripping the assets of the nation. This government, at 15 per cent in the polls, knowing that at the next election it is finished, on behalf of its corporate friends in whose pockets it lives, is stripping away the assets of Canada. That is what is happening today.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Tobin: This is the government that sold Route Canada, part of a Crown corporation, with all of the same rhetoric and rationale we heard today, to an individual who could not even qualify for a credit card.

My God, Mr. Speaker, is there no depth to depravity, the ideological foolishness of this party? Imagine selling a \$35 million asset to a Canadian whose only qualification was his Tory membership cards because his credit cards had been cancelled. Can you believe it, Mr. Speaker?

That is the mentality of that party. It sold Air Canada. It was going to do great things in the marketplace. It was going to flourish. It was going to change the Crown corporation involvement and fly even higher. What has Air Canada done? It has laid off 3,000 employees and financially it is going down.

The Conservatives sold off Fisheries Products International. They were going to unshackle Fisheries Products International. It was going to fly in the corporate world and what has happened? Its shares have died down and we have a disaster, people bleeding left, right and centre, all over the place in the fishery.

Let us not waste time, in the few minutes we have left, with subtle language about the free market. The free market implies competition. That is what it means: competition. However, what is happening in Canada?

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We have an incredibly concentrated energy sector, incredible concentration. That is not competition. That is capitalism, not free enterprise. That is the resources of the nation in the hands of a few for the benefit of the few and not for the nation as a whole. That is what we have. That is the creed of the Conservative Party as it strips away the assets of this nation.

We have a sector now that is dominated by U.S. interests and by U.K. interests or British interests. That is the reality and the one lever, if only this government had the guts to use it, and it hasn't. It is the one ability to have some say about the rip-offs that are currently going on at the gas pumps.

Look at this. Today, in *The Ottawa Sun*, third quarter profits of all of the oil companies in Canada have doubled, tripled, and quadrupled; amazing increases, and nothing but the sound of silence from members opposite.

It is time for these members, these plunderers of the national assets, to crawl out of their corporate pockets, go back and face their constituents, stand up for Canada, and protect the assets of this nation. The plunder must stop and stop soon.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It being 6.45 o'clock p.m., pursuant to order made in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 78(3) on Tuesday, October 23, 1990, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the second reading stage of the bill now before the House.

The question is on the amendment to the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those in favour of the amendment to the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): In my opinion the nays have it.