

Government Orders

• (1220)

It is very hard to take seriously a bill like this. When the government comes here and the dinosaur has his chance to speak, if he wants to get up in his seat today, if he has the courage to defend this bill, we will listen to him. We will be glad to hear the drivel he has to offer.

The fact is that we are not even dealing with the fringes of the issue as to what Petro-Canada should be all about. Actually Petro-Canada is being gradually, systematically phased out and with it also Petro-Canada International.

I challenge the minister to get up in this House today and confirm or give us assurance that eventually Petro-Canada International will not be wiped out as a long-term consequence of this bill. I challenge the minister to get up in this House and give us this assurance. He will not, Mr. Speaker, because he cannot give it and he knows it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret the hon. member's time has expired. The hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley.

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to have an opportunity to speak at report stage to a couple of amendments to Bill C-84, the legislation introduced, as a previous speaker said, by the dinosaurs on the other side of this House, these right-wing zealots, these extremists across the way, who are doing their best to remake and destroy this country as we have come to know it. The list has been repeated on a couple of occasions in the last few days. Yesterday the CBC. Before that, VIA Rail and Canada Post, particularly in rural areas. I think what this government is trying to do is remake this country so we will never recognize it again and for that all Canadians, all taxpayers, are going to pay.

We have to take a look at what I think are three very reasonable amendments to this legislation to privatize Petro-Canada, three very reasonable recommendations. The first one is an amendment saying that the chairperson and members of the board of directors of Petro-Canada must be Canadian residents. What is the big deal? Why be afraid of an amendment like that? We could even have put in that they had to be Canadian citizens. We thought members opposite might come part way and

support an amendment like that. What are they doing? They are opposing that. What are they afraid of?

Second, under the amendments we are also suggesting that they change the limit of foreign ownership from 25 per cent being allowed by this government to 1 per cent, to make the message and the point that we think Canadians should own Petro-Canada. With that kind of arrangement I am suggesting to you, Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein could come in here after the embargo and start buying up Petro-Canada. That is how illogical this legislation is.

As an individual he could come in after the embargo and buy up 10 per cent of Petro-Canada. Who over there is an agent for Saddam Hussein? That is what I would like to know, Mr. Speaker.

The third amendment being proposed by the Liberal Party also is an attempt to prevent Saddam Hussein from buying up Petro-Canada. This amendment will deny foreign governments and their agents buying up parts of Petro-Canada. It is important for the government to hear this message so that we do not allow our oil company to fall into the hands of Saddam Hussein, Exxon, and that ilk. That is what the Tories across the way are really trying to do. They are the front shock troops for Saddam Hussein and the huge multinational oil corporations which are going to come in and buy up PetroCan.

What they are going to do is tell all Canadians who are patriotic to Canada, who are patriotic to their oil companies, to have one of these in their wallets, Mr. Speaker—Petro-Can credit cards.

An hon. member: Not here.

Mr. Gardiner: These guys are going to issue one to Saddam Hussein, and he is not going to have a credit limit on his credit card so he can come in and buy up our oil reserves. It is shocking what this government is doing. It should listen to some good sense and vote for these three amendments. Let's keep Petro-Canada a Canadian oil company. Let us be sure that Canadian taxpayers recognize and play a role in the energy development in our country.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Surely, Mr. Speaker, you know that I would not miss an opportunity to have a few words on this issue. As a matter of fact, Sir, you will remember this well. It is like the wheel going full circle because we were here. We saw it all. We saw the