

tleman's party in this House is out of step with this new and potentially socialist leadership which may make itself felt in this House.

The second point made by the official opposition was that federal Crown corporations such as Air Canada and the CBC are inefficient in their operations and should be condemned for the manner in which they are carried on. However, not one member of the official opposition, in any condemnation, referred to the existing Crown corporations in the field of energy which have been among the most efficient and effective energy companies either in the private or public sector of Canada. I refer, of course, to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited which, over the past 25 years and working in combination with provincial hydro utilities, including Ontario Hydro, developed the CANDU nuclear reactor, which is the single most imaginative and successful energy and engineering achievement of this country. That achievement was carried out by public servants upon whom the official opposition heaped such scorn and abuse.

I think the best answer to hon. gentlemen opposite is that none of the claims put forward for the private sector, that is to say, not one of the companies referred to in the private sector in Canada, has equalled the achievement of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

In the same way I wish to refer to Eldorado Nuclear Limited, which has become competitive in the processing of uranium ores in Canada. It is competitive with the private sector in terms of developing Canadian energy resources.

It was suggested in this debate that no capable persons from the private sector would work for the Canadian government in the energy field. Let me point out that that company was capable of hiring, in the person of its chief executive officer, one of the leading chief executive officers working for a competitive energy company in this country. In other words, there are some people, contrary to the suggestions put forward by hon. members opposite, who are prepared to work for their country and make such corporations successful in the energy field.

I also refer to the achievement of PanArctic Petroleum, a corporation 45 per cent owned by the people of Canada through the investment of the government of Canada. It has achieved significant exploration successes in the Arctic islands and holds out one of the best prospects for future energy supplies in Canada.

It seems to me that the underlying theme raised by some hon. members opposite, some of whom I see sitting in the chamber, is that no capable, able people would come forward to work for the corporation being established, that it would be impossible to constitute an able and qualified management to forward the petroleum interests of Canadians generally.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): But can you defend the bill?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I certainly can and will be glad to do so. I am dealing with the kind of abuse which has been heaped on the bill by hon. members like the hon. member who just spoke. It is rather strange that hon. members, like the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr.

Petro-Canada

Clark), think that although able people will work for the British government in Canada, in BP Canada; for the French government, in Elf and Aquitaine; and for the Italian government, in Agip; that no qualified Canadian would work for his own country in the national petroleum corporation.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is the hon. member rising to ask a question?

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): No, Madam Speaker, I wish to raise a point of order. It is this: the minister, to no one's surprise—this being his tactic—has attributed to me suggestions that I at no time made, as the record will show. The minister's only strength—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) has the floor.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Rocky Mountain has indeed confirmed that I hit a sensitive point. I would say this: there can be no greater defamation of able Canadians than the suggestion made by members of the official opposition that no capable, experienced Canadian in the petroleum field would go to work for his country. I deny that categorically, and deny that it is true of Canadians in the petroleum field either in this country or outside.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): But can you defend the bill?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): People working for international companies and Canadian independents, good and able people, have come to me and said they would like to work for their country, work for the national petroleum company.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): But can you defend the bill?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): When the bill has been enacted I am confident that it will provide a lasting and complete condemnation of members of the opposition who have said that there is no good Canadian petroleum man who is prepared to work for his country. I think there are good ones. I look forward to presenting over-all details and filling in fine points when the bill is in committee.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): The minister cannot defend the bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

● (2150)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): In my opinion the yeas have it.