

*Government Orders*

Petro-Canada was established back in 1973, 1974 and 1975 at a time of a crisis in the Middle East. It is our window on the marketplace in terms of the oil industry. We are making a major mistake by selling out to the private sector—part of it probably to foreign investors—this small window we have on the marketplace in Canada.

Most of our oil industry is foreign owned. It is owned by the private sector. Most countries in the world, except the United States, have a very major publicly owned gasoline, oil, or energy company. The Mexicans have and most European countries have it. Most countries in the world have a major Crown corporation that is publicly owned. I believe we are making a mistake.

In concluding, I say that the Conservative Party made a major change in terms of its ideological orientation and privatization about four or five years ago when this Prime Minister was elected, in terms of trying to privatize as much as possible in this country. The Conservative Party of many years ago was the opposite. I remind the House that the Conservative Party is the party in this country that established many of the Crown corporations we have today: the CBC, the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Canadian National Railway, to name but a few. Peter Lougheed as premier of Alberta believed in a mixed economy in terms of public ownership in that province. The minister responsible for privatization comes from Brampton, Ontario. Former Premier Bill Davis was one who intervened in the marketplace in terms of Crown corporations.

That is sort of the tradition and the heritage of the Conservative Party of Canada. I think there has been an ideological change in the last few years. I think they have blinkers on, in terms of the value of privatization.

Therefore I serve notice to the government today that when the privatization of Petro-Canada bill comes before this House, he can expect a fight from the New Democratic Party. He can expect our party to try to mobilize public opinion to make sure the Conservative Party does not proceed with that bill in the same way we did 10 years ago when a former Prime Minister, the right hon. member for Yellowhead, promised to privatize Petro-Canada, raised the price of oil in this country, and went to the people and was defeated.

Once again we promise to make the same kind of issue out of Petro-Canada as we did 10 years ago and to try to stop the government from privatizing it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Benoît Tremblay (Rosemont):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville. It seems to me that with this bill the government is pursuing two objectives. One section of the bill deals mostly with administrative reorganization and changes in responsibility, which I imagine is supposed to improve government efficiency. Other parts of the bill concern the privatization of certain corporations. In your speech, you seemed to object to the bill as a whole for reasons that were mainly connected with the privatization aspect. However, there is also that part of the bill that focuses on improving the effectiveness of government administration, and I would like to hear your views on the subject.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Madam Speaker, I believe I said before that we have a lot of questions about the effectiveness of the bill before the House today. When I say effectiveness, I am talking about administration. I gave as an example a change that would affect three Crown corporations: The Canada Museums Construction Corporation, the Canadian Livestock Feed Board and Canadian Patents and Development Limited. I wonder whether administratively speaking, these changes would indeed have the desired results for this country and for the government of Canada. I am not sure. That is why I would like to see this bill in committee, where we can ask the responsible minister, the Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs) and his officials for answers to this kind of question. The proper place to ask these questions is in committee. I would like effective and responsible government but I also want a government that has progressive policies for our country.

This bill also holds out the possibility of having Harbour Front Corporation in Toronto under local control.

As I said a few minutes ago, I agree in principle with the government's proposal but, as usual under our system of government, a lot depends on the details of the bill and the way the regulations are set up. That is why