

Eldorado Nuclear Limited

Sarnia that that is not out of line with other industrialized countries.

In my speech on December 1, 1986, as reported at page 1627 of *Hansard*, I said:

We in the NDP are not necessarily against privatization. We are not saying in every case we should not privatize, we are saying that you have to have sound economic reasons for it. We want to know what they are in this case.

I do not have the exact quote of the Deputy Prime Minister from Question Period, but it was similar to what I said. The Government should not privatize if there is sound management, if the company is being supported by Canadians and it has a public policy role.

My personal view is that if it does not fulfil those requirements we should certainly look at privatization. I do not consider myself a blind ideologue, nor do I consider the Member for Sarnia and some of his colleagues to be blind ideologues.

Those who support Crown corporations should examine the role they are playing, and those other Canadians who want to privatize Crown corporations should look at the reasons for that privatization and the inherent dangers that are involved.

I am particularly concerned about Eldorado Nuclear because my colleague, the Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie), and I are presently conducting an inquiry on behalf of the New Democratic Party into the nuclear industry.

We visited the Port Hope area and indeed held a hearing there on February 5, 1987. I referred to this in *Hansard*, as reported at page 3193 on February 6, 1987. I said:

I was in Port Hope last night to hold an inquiry on behalf of the New Democratic Party into the nuclear industry there. Last night we heard from people who are concerned about the low level waste disposal, that is, all the nuclear waste which was mined in the past through refineries and by Eldorado Nuclear in Port Hope, Ontario. Port Hope is about 120 kilometres east of Toronto. I heard from 13 people representing unions, government bodies, industry and from ordinary people who live there regarding their concerns about nuclear waste. It is a big concern in the country. The Government of Canada is deeply involved in that.

One of the concerns of those people was how environmental problems would be dealt with if Eldorado Nuclear was privatized.

I want to deal with the environmental implications of this proposal. In considering the environmental aspects of Bill C-121, consideration should be given to the situation at Eldorado Nuclear now and the wider implications of uranium mining which the newly merged company will encounter. Eldorado Nuclear has severe environmental problems to deal with, especially at its Port Hope, Ontario, refinery, where there has been a difficult struggle about the nuclear dump site, as well as at the northern Saskatchewan mine sites.

Essentially, Eldorado's Port Hope dump site is full, and the situation has been summarized very well by the Library of Parliament in its research paper. It states:

The effluent treatment process at the Port Hope refinery produces approximately 600 tonnes/year of solid waste that is mainly calcium oxide

(lime) containing calcium fluoride and uranium at 500 to 1,000 ppm. This material, and much smaller quantities of other solid wastes that contain metallic impurities including arsenic, are dumped at a licensed site near Port Hope (the Granby dump site). This depository is close to being full and yet no alternate site or plan has been selected. Eldorado has been waiting for the federal Government to decide what should be done with this dump, and presumably the new company will also wait for direction. Any plan that requires the removal of the material to a new site will be very expensive (mainly transportation), and according to the details released with the merger plans, the costs will be borne mainly by the federal government (possibly to as much as \$100 million).

Why is the federal Government continuing to bear this cost after the privatization?

One of the unsolved problems we are hearing about in our inquiry into the nuclear industry is the disposal of nuclear wastes. For years, companies like Eldorado Nuclear and others have been producing nuclear materials but have been unable to come up with guaranteed ways of disposing waste, either in the case of low level nuclear waste at Port Hope or in the case of Ontario Hydro with their swimming pools in the nuclear reactors which have used rods of a high level of nuclear wastes. The cost of disposing of this waste has never been taken into account and it has become a big issue in terms of the privatization of this company.

The resolution of Port Hope is mainly to dump the responsibility onto the federal Government which will pay the bulk of the costs.

The first \$2 million will be borne by the company, 23.5 per cent of the next \$98 million will be borne by the company, and 76.5 per cent by the federal Government. Anything over \$100 million will be borne by the federal Government entirely. Certainly, this is somewhat of a sweetheart deal for the company.

Normally, companies are purchased with assets and liabilities, but in this case some key liabilities have been taken over by the federal Government. Why? I think the answer is simply that the Government in its desire to privatize at all cost is desperately anxious for a good share price on the flotation of the new company's stock. What better way for the federal Government to get that than to assume the liabilities of environmental responsibility and of Eldorado's enormous debt. The Government can then privatize to one of its friends, in this case, Denison Mine, one of the companies in the empire of the late Stephen Roman.

There was an article in *The Globe and Mail* last weekend written by Paul McKay. He said that medical records and royal commissions have shown that a pathetic army of the miners Mr. Roman employed at his uranium mines in Elliot Lake, Ontario, have gone to their own early graves because their lungs were needlessly poisoned with radioactivity and mine dust. The article went on to say that because the problems can surface many years after contamination more are fated to follow them.

He said that they will be the victims of two decades of primitive mine conditions in a company that refused to spend