

Government Orders

developing. How much bribery money do we need to entice these people into this project. Is \$10 million enough? No, no. What about \$100 million? No, No. What about \$1,000 million to these poor multinationals called Gulf, Chevron, and Mobil Oil? Is \$1,000 million enough? No, that is not enough. What about \$2,000 million? Is that enough? No, that is still not enough. What about \$2,700 million? "Aha", he said, "that is enough".

• (1740)

We have the government saying: "We are going to commit the government to spend \$2,700 million of taxpayers' money on this project". And the people are saying: "Is this the best way to spend that money?"

Way back when is interesting; I thought I would look up the record because the minister responsible for this project came to us in December 1989 saying "we have to get this legislation moving", so it was introduced at second reading. Then it evaporated for months and months and months. There was not a word from the minister of energy, not a single word. Then in June he came in and said: "Listen, we have to get going on this second reading", so we set aside one day. That was it; that was all then.

Here we come in and rush, rush, rush; we have to get this thing through now in the next couple of days. How much time has been spent in this House to discuss how we should spend \$2.7 billion of taxpayers' money? Do you know, Mr. Speaker, how long we have taken?

On November 7, we spent two minutes. On December 18, 1989, we spent 61 minutes. On February 9, 1990, we spent 130 minutes. On June 7, 1989, we spent 148 minutes.

Then it went to committee, this huge thick bill went to committee for study. Do you know how long, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Party allowed it to be studied in committee? One day, one single day, and this is \$2.7 billion of taxpayers' money and it cannot be frittered away without proper discussion and debate in committee. One day, and then they rush it through.

Then we come back to the report of the committee to the House. How long do we spend on that, four or five days? We spent one minute—60 seconds and that is all. The committee report was presented to the House in

one minute and then at report stage we spent 103 minutes. Now the government says that is enough, that it cannot stand any more debate on this topic. We have actually spent 800 minutes, including voting, on a \$2.7 billion taxpayers' expenditure.

No wonder the people of Canada do not trust this government. That is \$2.7 billion, \$2,000 million plus \$700 million, and it says: "Let's rush this through".

We have some questions we want to ask. We have not heard satisfactory responses. As a matter of fact, we have not heard any of the responses at all.

When the minister of energy first proposed this legislation he said it would make a major contribution toward the regional source of supply of oil for Atlantic Canada. When I read that, coming from the hon. minister, it sounds to me that the oil from Hibernia will be going to refineries in Atlantic Canada. He says: "A major contribution toward a regional source of supply of oil for Atlantic Canada".

Not a drop of this oil is going for refining in Atlantic Canada. It is going down to the United States. Every single drop of this oil for refining will not touch a single refinery in Canada. That is what some people are saying. Will we have a chance to examine that? Oh, no, we do not have time.

What business are we in? Is it our job to facilitate the development of our energy resources for Mobil Oil refineries in California, in Texas, or on the east coast of the United States. These are important questions that must be asked, but the government said: "Oh, no, we have the majority. We are the four-year elected dictators. We can do whatever we want. We want to ignore the House of Commons".

Quite frankly we are saying that this is the reason the people of Canada have lost complete faith in this government. This is the reason 85 per cent of the people of Canada say: "We do not want anything to do with this government in the future". The minister of energy says to the people of Canada that the government is going to invest \$2.7 billion of their money so that it can provide a major contribution to the regional source of supply of oil for Atlantic Canada and then changes his mind so that we are now part of a continental energy security program. We are using our taxpayers' money to develop our reserves for the North American market.