

Saturday afternoon, another on Sunday evening and the third on Monday morning. On that same fateful Monday a decision was reached committing millions of dollars to a project that is still in the hands of the multinational corporations which sold out Canada in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

It is time we ended this farce of multinational companies looking after Canadian interests. They look after their own interests. Let us not be fooled by them. It is time we looked after the development of Canada's oil supplies ourselves. Only in that way can we guarantee production and exploration in the interests of Canadians and at prices that suit the Canadian economy.

Mr. Bawden: Like Saskatchewan, where nothing is happening.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Chairman, I have another comment or two to make in response to the hon. member for Calgary South. He said that our concern in this country should be self-sufficiency. I think that is a very important argument. People are interested in what will happen with regard to gas and oil. When you go around this country you find that this is the main concern.

I agree we should be self-sufficient in this country. There are two ways of doing it. One is through the private enterprise method, which we have done in the past through multinational corporations—that is the hon. member's way, the corporate enterprise way; that type of system is being subsidized massively by the government and has been for years and years—and the other is through public ownership. In the first case, most of the profits that the multinational corporations make are reinvested in various countries. This clause will give them another \$100 million this year, more money next year and still more in the years to come. What we are saying in our party is that we should develop public ownership as other countries have done. You can hire the same technicians, the same scientists, the same economists, but the enterprise is owned by Canadians.

● (1650)

I was very happy to note that the hon. member for Calgary South did not try to refute any of the arguments about public ownership except to suggest that the labour unions would be more difficult to handle through public ownership than private ownership. I do not think that argument holds water. I think you will have the same relationship with labour whether it be a Crown corporation or a private corporation that is involved. The federal government should set the example in dealing with labour. I do not think that argument is relevant to the basic question of whether you should have public development. This is an important issue when we have a clause like this and when we are giving hundred of millions of dollars to foreign-owned oil companies. I do not think the taxpayers want us to do that.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, I am constantly amazed by the tremendous inferiority complex of members of parliament, particularly those who belong to the official opposition. If you look at the international oil companies you will see that in virtually every country which has large pools of oil, including the OPEC countries, the govern-

ments have taken over 75 per cent, 90 per cent or 100 per cent ownership of that oil. I could list all these countries, but whether it is Venezuela in South America, or Iran—

Mr. Andre: How many of them are democracies?

Mr. Orlikow: The question of whether they are democracies is completely irrelevant to the question of who owns the oil resources in those countries. Whether it is Venezuela, Iran, Iraq or Saudi Arabia, the oil has been discovered by the multinational corporations. These corporations have drilled the wells, built the refineries and the gathering lines and have paid a very small price to these countries for their oil. Speaking from memory, it seems to me that the Shah of Iran said some time ago that all they were getting was 12 cents a barrel for the oil being pumped out of that country.

Most of these countries are still in the feudal age, with very few highly skilled or qualified technicians, but all of them who supposedly could not carry out the development themselves have taken over the oil. They have made an arrangement to have this oil purchased by the multinationalists. The multinationalists are dealing with these countries and shipping the oil to western Europe, to North America and to Japan. They are still living in these countries. They have not pulled out their technicians or their expertise, because they need the oil.

These multinational companies have, through negotiation, arrived at a price with which they can live. They have said to these countries that if they compensate them they will continue to do business, and that is what they are doing. When it comes to Canada, a country which has a great number of highly educated people, with engineering schools from which we have turned out thousands of engineers in the last 25 years, we are suddenly told we cannot do what the OPEC countries have done. I have a great deal more confidence in the know-how and ability of Canadians than, obviously, members of the official opposition. When the OPEC countries can take over the oil resources and operate them or make a deal with the multinationals to supply the expertise in return for oil at a price with which they can live, I do not believe that we cannot do the same; I do not accept that for a moment.

If we accept that suggestion, we are in effect saying that everything we have done since the end of World War II to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the Canadian people has been in vain. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in increasing the number and size of our universities, technical and community colleges and every year we are turning out thousands of well trained people, yet members of the opposition drag out this red herring, saying that we do not have the know-how to develop our own resources.

The hon. member for Calgary South wants to know about capital. These multinational corporations are not supplying the capital. The capital to develop the oil resources in this country resulted from the tax concessions and unconscionable write-offs which the people of Canada gave the oil companies through their governments, Conservative and Liberal. I am not blaming the oil companies for trying to get the best deal they can. When they see that the country has a government composed of a bunch of suckers, they take every advantage they can. I suggest we