

*Government Orders*

Tuesday, October 2, 1990. It was published with the announcement that Petro-Canada would be privatized. The photograph was taken on October 24, 1981. You should see what he looks like, pumping gas!

But to get back to our subject, Mr. Speaker, since I was waiting for this opportunity, when I was asked to join the party in 1984, I was semi-retired.

**Mr. Bélair:** At your age?

**Mr. Della Noce:** Yes, at my age! Someone approached me—

**An hon. member:** It wasn't the Liberals!

**Mr. Della Noce:** Someone approached me to ask if I wanted to join the Progressive Conservative Party. I said: "That sounds interesting, because in my field, only the Progressive Conservative Party would be able to meet my expectations". In fact, I wrote to Mr. Lalonde, the former Minister of Energy—

**An hon. member:** Did he answer your letter?

**Mr. Della Noce:** —the guy with the cap. But Mr. Lalonde never answered my letter, although I wrote on behalf of 7,000 Quebec retailers. At the time, of course, Quebec was not very popular with the Liberal Party, but after all! I also sent a copy to a marvelous man, one of my ex-colleagues—I never thought I would be his colleague one day when I wrote the letter—the hon. member for Joliette, Mr. Roch LaSalle. He got back to me three days later, he called me to ask if he could help us. You will say, of course, that is the opposition. No, this was a man who liked Quebec, who liked Quebecers. When you represent 7,000 members, it seems the least you can expect is an answer to your letter.

**M. Tétreault:** And he was not arrogant.

**Mr. Della Noce:** No, he was not an arrogant man. It seems to me Mr. Lalonde could have answered my letter.

Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, I said that I would run if I could find a party which shared my views and my ideology, for example on Petro-Canada and on the National Energy Program for which I did not have any use. I had a meeting with the Prime Minister who at the time was Leader of the Opposition here in the House. I told him about my concerns and my views. I will always remember what the Prime Minister told me. I did not

know him any better than anybody else, but I liked him. Like a great Canadian he said to me: Get elected and go to Ottawa to defend your own cause. I thought this was such a good answer that I did come here to defend my cause.

In 1985, with my colleague from Calgary Southwest who made a very good speech yesterday, I began working on a privatization project. Six of my colleagues were members of that committee. Today I see that the dream of Canadians, consumers and retailers is coming true.

Yesterday I listened to members opposite, a member of the New Democratic Party, Liberal members, including one of our outstanding colleagues the Liberal member for York Centre who said, and I quote from page 14016 of yesterday's debates:

—the opposition does not support the privatization of Petro-Canada and that we will be voting against this measure.

They do not support the privatization of Petro-Canada, sure enough, but they are the ones who set it up in the first place. It is a rather embarrassing thing to say.

Why put Petro-Canada on the block? Why privatize it? Why keep it? These are the questions they should be asking. What did Petro-Canada ever do for consumers? Did it give them lower prices? No. Did it treat retailers better than the private sector did? No. Did it help get what is called a "window on the industry"? I can tell you that Mr. Lalonde was not even anywhere near the window and already things turned sour. What was Petro-Canada doing, Mr. Speaker? Let me tell you. I was a retailer in those days. I owned a station, and there were another three or four in the vicinity. There was Petrofina, BP, Supertest and others. All of a sudden, Petro-Canada gas stations swarmed in like flies or mosquitoes and I found myself surrounded. They all had a face lift at the taxpayers expense, you know. They were using my money to compete with me! That was too much! That was liberal all right! Red maple leaves were put on. That was Trudeau propaganda! How nice to see all those maple leaves across Canada while Quebec is separating. The hell with Quebec, right!

Mr. Speaker, when I got up one morning and saw I had four Petro-Canada stations for competitors, that they each had a \$50,000 budget for a face lift using my money while I had only \$1,000 for painting and maintenance, I