

*Petroleum Incentives Program Act*

because it is Canadian owned; it not only has to be Canadian owned, depending on the discretion of the minister in accordance with his very complicated and detailed regulations, it also has to have work which is eligible, in the mind of the minister.

Instead of a free-enterprise society, what we have is a state controlled society in which a minister and his officials in the ivory towers of Ottawa determine what work is to be done in Canada, who is to develop Canada, how it is to be developed, where it is to be developed and when it is to be developed. That is contrary to every concept of the free-enterprise system which has built our nation. This bill is socialism at its worst.

**Mr. Waddell:** Yes.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** I am glad the hon. member agrees that this bill is socialism at its worst.

**Mr. Miller:** Terrible socialism.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Socialism would have the government own; here it just controls.

**Mr. Waddell:** Exactly. You've got it, Don.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** We have a planned economy, and we cannot support that because we know what is happening and what has happened in other countries which have used the concept of the planned society. The Soviet Union cannot even feed itself, and we have to export grain to every planned country. Poland is an example. Poland used to be a breadbasket for the world. We now have to export food to Poland as a result of it having a planned economy. If we carry on with the philosophy of this bill, we will wind up with further central planning of our economy. It will be done under the guise of patriotism or Canadian ownership. Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel. Under the guise of patriotism, under the guise of Canadian ownership and under the guise of, "We are going to own the oil industry," what we really will be doing is allowing the minister and his henchmen to control the oil industry, just as they wish to control every business activity in the country with their central planning.

We have seen what has been happening with this government. This government has managed to run inflation up. It was 12.5 per cent last year. Perhaps it has slipped back to 11.5 per cent now. We have managed to run unemployment up to over 9 per cent. That is the government's figure. The rate of unemployment is probably well over 10 per cent, if we take into account those people who are no longer deemed to be in the work force, the 146,000 people who all of a sudden disappeared from the work force last year. I do not know whether they went to the gulag, whether they all died or whether there was a run on funerals, but that is the number of people who disappeared from the labour force last year. That is why we have only 9 per cent unemployment.

**Mr. Waddell:** They are running for the leadership of the Conservative Party.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** On the basis of statistics long old, I can say that the planned society program of the government represented by this bill is the kind of program against which Canadians should rise up. It is not patriotism. It is not designed to promote Canadian ownership. It is designed to promote government control of our means of production and distribution. It matters little whether that control is by a state company like Petro-Canada or in the minister's office by ministerial regulation and direction.

Let us look at what is happening in the United States. The Americans have opted for the other way. They have opted for de-regulation.

**Mr. Waddell:** And a windfall profits tax.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** They have opted to allow people to go out and make profits. My friends says a windfall profits tax. Yes, and they pay ordinary corporate profits taxes if corporations make profits. What is wrong with that?

**Mr. Waddell:** Windfall profits.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** But they are allowed to go out and drill and develop and do things the way they want, and things are moving there in terms of oil self-sufficiency. Bit by bit, rapidly, that country is becoming much more self-sufficient than ever before, and certainly this has been so in the last ten years. That is the way we should be going. We should be getting rid of the burden of government. We should be getting rid of the bureaucracy of government, the taxes of government and the people who think that because they happen to live in this city of Ottawa, they know all, can see all and can regulate all. We ought to set the people who produce free from the chains of government and the chains of regulations so that they can do their thing and develop without controls, without grants and without incentive payments, buried, so to speak, under the guise of patriotism and under the guise of Canadianization. I say the National Energy Program should be buried. The National Energy Program has been a disaster for Canada. It has cost Canadians their homes, their businesses and their farms. It has caused monster unemployment and it has been a cause of inflation. Every economic group in the country that analyses such things as the banking industry and other groups that have looked at what is wrong with interest rates, has almost invariably pointed to the Foreign Investment Review Act and the national energy policy as being the two things that have tended to hurt Canada far more than help it.

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Under the provisions of GATT we are already under attack by the United States. This bill favours Canadian companies over foreign companies to the extent that it is unfair and will work against us with respect to our own multinationals. We are proud of companies like Massey-Ferguson Limited, Seagram, CPR, Noranda, Hudson's Bay, Inco and so on which trade around the world, yet our own companies with head offices in Canada will wind up being discriminated against in