

cent, it only requires another 25 per cent from Canadians. Then the 50 per cent can come from anyone outside the country. Where is the incentive for Canadians to take more than the 25 per cent participation rate? There is very little, unless, of course, they want to go on bended knee to some of their friends in the cabinet and try to get one of those cushy government grants that they will offer to some of their friends—

An hon. Member: Only their friends.

Mr. Siddon:—who happen to be able to pick up some of this expropriated interest later on that the government will sell off after it has grabbed it and put it under its control.

We have an illustration here. If we follow the provisions set out in clause 27 and thereafter, certain interests in Canada can end up becoming a part of a company which has less than 50 per cent Canadian ownership and continues to operate and explore with the sanction of the government. For example, let us consider a production licence granted on the basis of 25 per cent Crown ownership, 25 per cent private participation by Canadians, and 50 per cent foreign ownership from the U.S. or elsewhere. There could be a corporate change of ownership or change of hands. This happens all the time through transactions on the stock market, or what have you. If there is a change of hands and suddenly we find that that 25 per cent Canadian ownership ends up with some country like Brazil, or who knows—

An hon. Member: Cuba.

Mr. Siddon:—then we only have a 25 per cent Crown share. The government will move in and take one quarter of the equity away from those foreign investors, whoever they are, and will claim it for itself. Subsequently, Clause 23(6) of Bill C-48 allows the government to resell that confiscated 25 per cent to any company which has at least 75 per cent Canadian ownership, such as perhaps one of the big distilleries, or one of the major, powerful corporations in our country which are perhaps connected with our friends opposite. As long as this company is 75 per cent Canadian owned, with the benefit of U.S. or foreign capital it can end up buying the expropriated asset that was taken away from some other company. Then, with only 75 per cent of the 25 per cent, this company can then end up being a partner in an oil and gas exploration undertaking where the total rate of participation is only 41.25 per cent. In other words, the government says that a Canadian company can have the 25 per cent it has taken away from a foreign investor if it has three quarters of its equity from Canadian sources.

Therefore, some people can end up operating in the Canada lands with only 41.25 per cent Canadian ownership rate, if they know the minister and they can play the game by his rules. However, those who play by the straight rules would, of course, have to have a 50 per cent Canadian ownership rate, of which the government already possesses one half through the 25 per cent Crown share. It just does not make sense. We can see from all of this that this bill is delaying the date when

Canada Oil and Gas Act

Canada will achieve energy self-sufficiency. It is driving up our energy costs and our interest rates by driving capital out of Canada and, as a consequence, weakening our dollar.

I just cannot understand the comments of the Prime Minister in Toronto last night. If he knows so much about our economy, why has he made such a God-awful mess of it over the past 12 years, and why does he not bring in a budget now? Why does he give us this phony excuse that he gave to the premiers a week or so ago? He wrote a letter to Premier Bennett of British Columbia, stating:

I assume this postponement does not concern you—

He was speaking in a very cynical voice here.

—since you knew that a budget delay would be the inevitable result of your refusal to meet next week and of your suggestion that—notwithstanding that the budget had been announced for November 3—we meet on the Constitution during the first week of November.

The Prime Minister knows that is absolute poppycock, yet he has the gall to write that. He thinks the Canadian people are so stupid that they can accept that kind of phony excuse. It is high time he started listening to the people of Canada and their hue and cry that this country cannot take very much more of this cynical, devious man who is forever distorting, oversimplifying and twisting the facts to suit no one's convenience but his own. It is high time that some of his friends in the front benches who agree to these phony, socialistic, economic policies awakened and realized what destruction they are wreaking on our country.

I know that other hon. members have been listening very quietly. I hope they have been listening, because these are serious times for our country. If there are not some changes in direction and philosophy soon, then I fear for my children and their wellbeing.

Mr. Waddell: I wonder if the hon. member who last spoke would permit a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. This requires the unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Siddon: I would be happy to answer.

Mr. Waddell: It is sort of a double-barrelled question. I wonder if the hon. member could tell us where it leaves his position in view of the fact that the premiers of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan have, in fact, accepted the National Energy Program by signing those recent agreements with Ottawa. Second, why is nationalization of public ownership so bad in the light of the fact that Premier Davis just bought 25 per cent of Suncor for Ontario?

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that I have a little time to answer. In the first instance, I do not see that there is any connection between the agreements which were signed by the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and, I might add, Saskatchewan on the National Energy Program. There is no direct connection. Those premiers have spoken out as forceful-