

*Petro-Canada*

continued during the 1940s and 1950s, threw away its great opportunity; but that is the province's problem. The people of Saskatchewan moved to Alberta in hundreds of thousands.

This government, by the introduction of two successive budgets and some pigheaded thinking, has tried to master that industry. Why? It should not have anything to do with the industry, in any way. The setting up of the proposed corporation is a further attempt by the present administration to interfere with the development and distribution of natural resources by the provinces. Frankly, I am amazed that most provinces have not risen up in arms, although some have voiced their objections. Most of them, because they do not possess oil and gas, do not find at the moment that this question is of particular concern to them. But the provisions of the May and November budgets having to do with resource royalties affect all resource development. I am astounded by the pusillanimous and supine attitude of a number of provincial administrations to the interference by the federal government in fields in which that government has no business.

We hear people talking of more Canadian participation in Canadian enterprise. Everybody wants more Canadian participation. I was going to say that the idea is in the same category as motherhood. Unfortunately, a lot of people have downgraded motherhood. A much more acceptable idea has to do with Canadian participation in Canadian industry and in Canadian resource development. That is to be the objective, the Holy Grail of all of us in Canada. That is the government's objective. How does it propose to reach it? How does the government propose to finance the corporation?

Some important talks are scheduled to take place this week. I have heard many hypotheses as to the results and I think one can foretell some of the consequences. I will not do so at this time; I will simply say that Canadians have been exhorted to participate more in Canadian business. I should like to see much more Canadian participation in the ownership of Canadian businesses. But how can Canadians do this in the face of an Income Tax Act that overtaxes? Somehow there has developed a philosophy in Canada which says that we are to show ever greater concern for certain social services and hand-outs, all of which are provided from an extremely narrow economic base.

Certainly, we like to see the less fortunate get a helping hand when they need it; we like to see the development of good, sound health services—but not at fantastically over-inflated costs. We like to see good medical services but, again, not at wildly inflated costs. We want to see less injustice and more criminals rehabilitated through a much better parole system than we have now, so that we will not have the present high concentration of Canadians in our penal institutions. We want to see programs under which we can devote appropriate sums of money to our native population. We should give them a strong base and let them achieve what they want, which is not necessarily what the white man wants. Our trouble all along has been that all the thinking on behalf of native peoples has been done by the white man, who has tried to mould them to his image. That will not be the solution in future.

[Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).]

Under this bill, the government is trying to mould the public mind. Canadian resources shall be developed as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) and his colleagues see fit. I spoke about the president and chief executive officer of the corporation. Let me refer to clause 7(2) of this bill. It says that the corporation shall accept all written instructions from the governor in council. Did any member on the government side look at clause 7(3)? It says that the budget of Petro-Canada shall be approved annually by the cabinet. Why set up a board, Mr. Speaker? Why set up a group of executive officers? The corporation might as well be run as another section of a department, with a director in charge.

● (1630)

I mentioned that one of the objectives of this corporation should be lower prices. The corporation is supposed to engage in the marketing, distribution and sale of petroleum products. However, it will be much like the various liquor commissions in this country which respond to pressure from cabinet, the attorney general or some other officer. Without any justification, they hike the prices of their products merely because the government requires more money—hidden taxation without representation. I do not know why in various provinces they have not blown the whistle on the way their liquor boards operate. I notice some people in this province are getting concerned about how they operate with regard to their pricing policies.

We see interference in interprovincial trade by setting up direct tariffs against products from other provinces or engaging in indirect Customs tariff barriers. We saw an example of that this past summer between Quebec and Ontario with regard to their wines and apple ciders. This happens within Canada, but it is all done without any control. The ugly monster that is being created, Petro-Canada, could behave in precisely the same way with regard to oil and gas products. It will be responsible directly to the minister and the government, but to no one else.

If one goes through this bill page by page he will find more reasons why it should not be supported by the House. Do hon. members think this corporation is required for the participation by the Government of Canada in Syncrude? Not at all. That would be something worth while and proper for the Canada Development Corporation, namely, the development of Canadian resources.

We are told this corporation is required to purchase petroleum products from abroad. We have already in existence the Canadian Commercial Corporation. It has been in existence for many years. That corporation is engaged in the purchase of petroleum products. With the allocation of a few personnel if necessary, it would respond to whatever is required—although at the moment there has been no demonstrated need for that particular characteristic or quality by the Canadian Commercial Corporation.

Nor does Canada require to purchase petroleum products through any state organization. It would be interesting to know what happened to the last and most spectacular purchase of petroleum products on behalf of this government by the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer), on the advice of the Minister of Energy, Mines