

Member was not active with a political party, maybe he just stuck with a deep admiration for Mr. Trudeau, I do not know.

● (1620)

[English]

I was making the argument that there is a very important role in this country for Crown corporations, and for public ownership. Saskatchewan is a very good example. There is very broad support for that in our province, and in our country as a whole.

Not only do we have Crown corporations, in our province we have a great tradition of another form of public ownership, which is the co-operative movement. The biggest grain company in Canada is the wheat pool. The wheat pool is owned by the farmers of Canada, the producers who ship the grain. There is no move whatsoever to have more and more grain going to the private sector be it Cargill, or any other company. In Saskatchewan there is tremendous support for the co-operative movement and the credit union movement. There is tremendous support for the whole co-operative movement, whether it is in retail stores, or what have you. There is a great tradition for the co-operative movement and for public ownership.

[Translation]

And I know that in Quebec, it is exactly the same thing; the co-operative movement is very popular in Quebec. *Caisses Populaires* are very popular in Quebec. I also know that since 1960 there is a major participation in the Quebec public sector. I am thinking of René Lévesque who, at the time he was a Liberal minister nationalized Hydro-Quebec, a large public corporation which is now making substantial profits.

[English]

There are many other big Crown corporations in Quebec. There is a great tradition in this country to have Crown corporations.

My main reason for intervening in this debate was to raise with members of the Conservative Party, who I believe are good friends of mine, these questions of privatization. I would like to remind them of their tradition that goes back to Sir John A. Macdonald, and follows through to John Diefenbaker. They initiated many of the Crown corporations that we have today.

I would like to remind my friend from York East that he may have received some answers in a questionnaire from constituents, but I think those answers would be different if those constituents heard a real debate about Crown corporations in Canada, just as it was during Petro-Canada's days of great debate in the House. The former Prime Minister of Canada back in 1979 wanted to privatize Petro-Canada. The people of this country reacted against that. One of the reasons the then Prime Minister lost the election was because he wished to privatize Air Canada. Once the public became sensitized to that they reacted in a very negative way. In fact, it was so negative that his Party was soundly defeated. A lot of

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ground was lost in western Canada where the supposed support for privatization was very great.

I can assure you that the overwhelming majority of people in my riding and province do not want Petro-Canada privatized. They do not want it privatized because they understand the issue very well. Of course, the Conservative Party realized that when it changed its policy on Petro-Canada and decided it should be kept as a Crown corporation.

[Translation]

I would now like to thank you, Madam Speaker, and I hope that the federal Members of the Conservative Party will agree with me in the forthcoming weeks that we need Canadair as a Crown corporation, a state corporation belonging to all Canadians.

[English]

**Mr. Boyer:** I listened with interest to the Hon. Member who, like his colleague the Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) who spoke a little earlier this afternoon, has urged that the question of privatization not be proceeded with as a matter of ideology. That is interesting, because if those spokesmen for the New Democratic Party are urging the Government not to proceed with something as a matter of ideology, it is most assuredly the other side of the coin that applies to members of that caucus where nationalization and state ownership is a fundamental part of the platform of that Party. Through a number of decades there had been clear examples of that policy being proceeded with on the basis of ideology, and not with particular regard to the practicality of state ownership in a specific case. For example, in the Member's own Province of Saskatchewan the CCF set up a shoe company which was state-owned, and which turned out to be a bust. There was a perfect example of something not working.

**Mr. Waddell:** We haven't heard about that one for years.

**Mr. Boyer:** It is in the Hon. Member's interest to actually come at this question in a more accurate historic perspective than he has, because it is most assuredly an important part of the Conservative Party's tradition in this country, that when it is necessary for the state to become involved in social or economic activity that is done through Crown corporations, or Government departments where appropriate.

**Mr. Orlikow:** You're right. Why are you changing now?

**Mr. Boyer:** Because times change. What is good in one instance cumulatively can make a difference over time.

In the United Kingdom in two days the deadline closes for people to subscribe for shares in the state-owned gas company. That public offering, as part of a privatization effort in that country, is being over-subscribed by individual citizens who are picking up on this opportunity to see privatization proceed, with the people of the country having a more direct stake in what is involved.