

There is no question at all—surely the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) is aware of this—that when one creates a corporation, one establishes capitalization. There is no conception of using the total amount of that capital within a definite period of time, or issuing all the shares at the outset.

The minister has indicated time and again that there will be gradual investment in the corporation as the need arises. He has indicated time and again that we are dealing with risk capital. When you speak of CNR, Air Canada, Eldorado or other Crown corporations, you are not dealing with a capital-intensive risk undertaking. We are dealing now with an exploration company, a company that is going into the northern reaches, that is going to explore offshore potential, invest in the tar sands and buy Panarctic. These are all risk enterprises.

It stands to reason that it is to the public benefit that we invest these moneys to discover new resources. Therefore, we ought to be getting risk capital in the same way that Imperial Oil, when it needs risk capital, sells shares on the international market. My hon. friends opposite ask where Imperial Oil or any oil company can obtain interest-free money. Mr. Speaker, it is recognized that the major multinationals have to finance their own exploration. They seldom go to the market unless they have a major exploration program; they finance from their own earnings which they get from the underground resources they have discovered. They are able to finance themselves because of their massive assets.

My Conservative friends say that \$1,500 million is a fantastic, an unbelievable sum of money.

An hon. Member: To throw away.

Mr. Blais: When we consider that Canada's present underground oil reserves are about eight billion barrels which belong to multinational corporations, we must ask how much that oil is worth. Mr. Speaker, it is worth \$8 per barrel. How much is that? To my way of calculating, eight times eight billion makes it worth \$64 billion. When we look at Canada's gas reserves which are worth \$1.25 per 1,000 cubic feet, we find that we have nearly \$70 billion worth of gas underground. We are dealing with \$1,500 million to be spent over a ten-year period and we are talking about known reserves under Canadian soil, now available, of roughly \$130 billion.

We are dealing with a potential investment in the energy field, between 1975 and 1985, of roughly \$115 billion. That is the amount we will have to invest in the energy field. Yet here is the Tory Party saying that they do not want the Canadian people to be represented in that \$115 billion even to the extent of \$1,500 million. What sort of contribution is that party making to ensure sufficient Canadian energy resources?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I am at a loss to understand why an opposition party which says it is interested in the Canadian good is not willing to support the Canadian people in investing in Canadian energy resources.

An hon. Member: We can't hear you; speak up.

Petro-Canada

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I can take all the riding and kibitzing from that side of the House and the hon. members from Alberta. They are sitting on a pot of gold, and they know it. They do not want to look anywhere else, but we in Canada have to look beyond Alberta for our reserves and we need funds to go into those areas. They are talking about \$1,500 million as though it were the end of the world.

Mr. Woolliams: What's a billion? Remember C.D. Howe?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, what's a billion, or what's a million—

Mr. Woolliams: Got you!

Mr. Blais: —in terms of energy resources and the need for investment?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blais: If hon. members opposite think I speak so loud, perhaps I would not have to if they would be quiet.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, when you are dealing with energy resources and speaking of \$1,500 million, the hon. member for Calgary North knows that is less than 1 per cent of the required investment. That amount of money will not supplant private investment. This money is going to support private investment, to be added on to private investment. Members of the opposition have some hesitation in encouraging this additional investment for establishing new reserves because the constituents of the Alberta members are involved in exploration. The only Canadian participation in the oil industry is at the exploration level. Our companies explore and drill; no Canadian company markets, refines and distributes oil. Our companies in Alberta are drilling. It will be the purpose of Petro-Can to establish new reserves.

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My second argument is this. In setting up a national petroleum company, Canada is not breaking new ground. Not one of our trading partners is without a national petroleum corporation operating either at the supply or the consuming level.

Mr. Gillies: What about the United States?

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question.

Mr. Blais: With respect, Mr. Speaker, not at this time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blais: There are national oil companies operating in Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Norway and Spain. One could include the United States because most of the large oil companies are United States-based. Look at the producing countries, even those which contain only a small share of the industry; they all have national corporations. Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Israel—you name them—they all exercise complete control over their