

in case it may be thought I am using my present position to say things I am afraid to say elsewhere.

Let me recapitulate. First, energy, particularly oil, has been the source of fantastic profits in this country. It has been the source of the growth of monopolies, of oligopolies. It has been the source of the intrusion of foreign money which has bought out this land. It has been the source of price fixing, of limiting production, of selling out for the quickest possible dollar to anybody regardless of the consequences for Canadians. This has been the story for some time, now. There are quite a few billion dollars of potential profit involved, so those who are interested, and those who have been on the gravy train and who have been the recipients of gifts from government over the years, are going to try to take advantage again of this situation.

I will recapitulate what I have said, and put it in some sequence. There is Claude Frenette, the gentleman who used to be executive assistant to Mr. Sauvé when he was in the cabinet, who then became a senior executive of the Power Corporation and who subsequently moved to the Hudson Institute. We have the group behind Trudeau prior to the 1968 election comprising the present Minister of Supply and Services, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the same Claude Frenette and the Power Corporation of Canada with its multimillion dollar investments all over the nation. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand), one of the three wise men, is missing from all this in 1967 and 1968. He and the Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier), had entered this House seeking a leader from Quebec, a man who was to save this country from itself but who has done more to damage it than any prime minister since confederation. They were excluded. It was the wise, young sharpies—though I cannot include the Minister of Supply and Services in that category. None-the-less, he was in that group.

The group met every Friday night in the boardroom of the Power Corporation in Montreal in the fall of 1967 and probably into 1968 seeking who they could get to become leader of the Liberal party. And who did they come up with, Mr. Speaker? The current Prime Minister, Jean-Luc Pépin, the former Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, as soon as the public found him out and defeated him, ended up on the board of directors of the Power Corporation of Canada. The Hudson Institute seeks a mechanism for grabbing the tar sands for whatever private interests with which they may be associated. Frenette has had connections in the Liberal cabinet, the Power Corporation of Canada and the Hudson Institute, so I am told.

● (1620)

Do you think, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Supply and Services conceived that speech all by himself? That is an impossibility. Someone wrote it for him, probably the same Claude Frenette. The Prime Minister stands up in this House and gives his sanction to the Minister of Supply and Services to say whatever he likes, wherever he likes, about energy policy, and cuts the feet out from under the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. We had a meeting today between the premiers of the provinces, the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet about energy and oil. But where was the Minister of

Competition Bill

Energy, Mines and Resources at two o'clock? He was in his seat in this House when he should have been at the conference. Where was the Minister of Supply and Services? We do not know, but he was not here. Perhaps he was at that meeting.

When Claude Frenette won the presidency of the Liberal party in the province of Quebec prior to 1968, defeating whoever it was who ran against him, the Prime Minister is alleged to have rushed into the room, thrown his arms around Claude Frenette and said: "We beat the bastards; now we can get something done". That is a quotation; I do not know whether or not it is accurate. Peter Newman in his book "Distemper of our Times" says it is true; and if hon. members want the page reference, it is page 449.

My friend over here, whoever he is, keeps chatting away. I should like to present my remarks in some sort of sequence, but if he would like, at the conclusion of what I have to say, to ask me some questions and give me the opportunity to clear up some doubts in his mind, I will do my best to do that. Interjections from some distance are very hard to pick up, but I am sure my hon. friend will accept my apology when I tell him directly that I am not able to respond to everything that he has been muttering about up to now because I have not heard all that he has said.

That type of activity which I have just outlined, in which there is an undercurrent of activity to give domination and control over the tar sands to the person who can make the quickest buck out of it, is a conspiracy against the people of this land which this bill does not seek to deal with or handle. It is a conspiracy to sell out our resources and to deny completely any environmental protection. It is a pay-off for political support and is designed to seduce Canadians to do all those terrible and deleterious things that can be done when the gleam of gold overrides the sense of democracy.

In the moment or two I have left, Mr. Speaker, I should like to talk about how ineffective is the bill in regard to another aspect of the way in which the Canadian public have been gouged and stolen from every time they go into a grocery store, a chain store or food market. I want to refer to the profit position of food processors in this land. If there is thievery that has taken place, it has certainly taken place here. I am not talking now about the super-market chains like Loblaw's, IGA, Safeways out west or any of the others; I am talking about the food processor, the company that runs the raw material through a manufacturing or processing plant and delivers a packaged, canned, or encased product of some kind.

Let me very quickly recount the percentage profit increase of these companies in the year 1973 compared with 1972. J. M. Schneider increased its profits in that one year by 35 per cent. H. J. Heinz was a poor outfit, with only a 14 per cent increase; Dominion Dairies, probably one of the groups we have been subsidizing through the milk subsidy program, 32 per cent; Canada Packers, 36 per cent; Canadian Cannery, 33 per cent; George Weston—you cannot buy a biscuit in Canada that George has not had a finger in—86 per cent; Burns Foods, 28 per cent; B.C. Sugar Refinery, 50 per cent; Maple Leaf Mills, another food processor to whom we have been paying a subsidy for