

Government Orders

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I just have a few comments about the bill before the House today and the concerns I have about energy development in this country.

The bill before the House today is important for the taxpayers of this country. What we are looking at is the expenditure of \$2.7 billion of taxpayer's money from the federal taxpayer, wherever that federal taxpayer may live in this country. Mr. Speaker, \$2.7 billion is a fair amount of money for the taxpayers of this country. Later on in this debate the House leader of our party will be moving an amendment that will make sure that the federal taxpayer has accountability in terms of adequate annual reports being made to this House about the Hibernia project, and what it he is doing not only for the province of Newfoundland but indeed for the people of this country.

We want to know for example, Mr. Speaker, what would be the net direct and indirect economic benefits in each Canadian province that will result from this Hibernia project.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would just like to bring to the attention of the hon. member that we are now speaking on amendments Nos. 1 and 2. We are not on the main bill. I would just like to bring that to the attention of the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville.

Mr. Nystrom: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, we will be moving further amendments because we are concerned about how they spend the taxpayers' money in this country, and as an Albertan I am sure you, Mr. Speaker, would be greatly concerned as well.

I have seen the polls from the province of Alberta where your party, Mr. Speaker, is now running fourth. I am sure you will be very sensitive as to how government money is spent. I do rise to speak on the amendments that are before the House at this time saying that the main concern in our party is accountability, to make sure that money is well spent, to make sure that taxpayers' money is not wasted, be it a taxpayer from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, or Cambridge, Ontario. It is important that we keep a close watch on the expenditure of money.

I am also concerned about an intention of this government that I want to raise on these amendments as well, because it is very relevant, to privatize Petro-Canada very shortly. I think that is also going to be a waste of the

taxpayers' money, a corporation that has now accumulated assets of around \$5 billion in this country. It concerns me that the government across the way is going on an ideological binge to satisfy their friends in corporate Canada. They want to privatize Petro-Canada. They want to make sure they have made some very good economic deals like having a Hibernia for some of their rich and powerful friends in corporate Canada. That really concerns me as a New Democrat, concerns me as a Canadian, as a Canadian taxpayer. I am sure it concerns Newfoundland as well. That is being done for ideological purposes.

Mr. Reid: What has this got to do with Newfoundland?

Mr. Nystrom: I am sure the member from Newfoundland who was so active in the constitutional debate, in his heart of hearts being a red Tory, would not favour the privatization of Petro-Canada.

I am sure he would recall that the public institution was formed back in 1974-75 because of an OPEC crisis in the world and the escalating oil prices and because we had a minority parliament where the NDP insisted that we have this public co-operation which would be a window on the oil industry in this country. That is why we had Petro-Canada.

It strikes me as ironic that at the time when there is another crisis in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf this government would want to privatize Petro-Canada. I think it is very important that we mention that in this debate on Hibernia.

We have to deal with these amendments before the House, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that we mention that at this particular time because the people of this country must be made aware of the ideological blinders on the government across the way.

It is like the province of Saskatchewan where the premier a year or so ago tried to privatize the Saskatchewan Energy Corporation and the opposition New Democratic Party walked out of the legislature and let the bells ring. The people of that province, my province, rebelled and forced the government to withdraw the bill to privatize the energy corporation of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I perhaps want to give you advance warning that when the privatization bill for Petro-Canada is tabled in this House in a few days, we intend to make that a fight across this country and show the people