

• (1600)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate concurs in the amendments made by the House of Commons to its amendments 4(c) and (d) and 8 to Bill C-21, An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Employment and Immigration Department and Commission Act; and that the Senate does not insist on its amendments 2(a), (b) and (c), 3(a) and (b), 5(a), 6, 7 and 9, to which the Commons have disagreed.

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[English]

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Government House
Ottawa

October 23, 1990

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Beverley M. McLachlin, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in her capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 23rd day of October, 1990, at 5.30 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

Yours sincerely,
Judith A. LaRocque,
Secretary to the Governor General

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PETRO-CANADA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. McDermid that Bill C-84, an act respecting the privatization of the national petroleum company of Canada, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Lee, (p. 14001), and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East), (p. 14010).

Mr. Ken James (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour and Minister of State (Transport)): Mr.

Government Orders

Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure today to speak in support of the proposed legislation which will authorize the Government of Canada to sell shares of Petro-Canada to the Canadian public.

Globally, governments everywhere from China to France, from Hungary to Israel and Britain, are involved in major privatization initiatives on an ever-increasing broad scale. In Canada, provincial governments such as Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, have also made major sales of Crown owned corporations to the private sector and to ordinary Canadians.

The question often asked is: why privatize at all? Reasons for privatization differ from country to country and from province to province but, in Canada, the federal government's commitment to privatization is rooted in the Canadian tradition of creatively and successfully mixing public initiative with private enterprise. Both have their place, the issue is striking the proper balance between the two.

In earlier periods in our history, it has been made necessary for Canada to put an emphasis on large government doing many things. Today, though, the private sector is recognized as being more appropriately the principal stimulant of economic growth and renewal in Canada.

In Canada's early years, state intervention was important, in fact, essential in building the great canals that opened our country to commerce, in assisting in trans-continental transportation, through the building of the CNR and even developing our national broadcasting system. National medicare and income-support programs also resulted from government interest and intervention, for the common good.

Today, Canada has a developed and maturing social and economic infrastructure, the emphasis on state ownership and big government growth that continued into the 1980s has to be curtailed or two situations will worsen. Government deficits, used to pay for increasing state intervention, will continue to rise uncontrollably, and the private sector, the engine of growth in the economy, will be constrained by unnecessary and unfair competition and pressures from the public sector.

Can government do everything, and should governments do everything? The answer is unequivocally no,