

*Government Orders*

I would like to remind you, Madam Speaker, that when Petro-Canada was introduced in the seventies, as the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands quite rightly pointed out the other day, closure was introduced after 15 days of debate. This government allowed debate for only two days before introducing closure, thus denying probably half of all membership in this House an opportunity to speak.

We are on the eve of the sale of Petro-Canada, which is the wrong thing to do for a number of reasons, which would take all the time allotted for this intervention. Madam Speaker, you have the privatizing of Unemployment Insurance through Bill C-21, because the public interest has been withdrawn in the funding of that very important commission. Madam Speaker, there is also the partial privatization of Air Canada.

At this rate, Madam Speaker, the day will come when this government, if given the chance to continue to govern, will attempt possibly to privatize Parliament Hill. It will try to find a good American sponsor, someone probably like Coca-Cola, Kodak or as my colleague from York South says, perhaps McDonald's or Kentucky Fried Chicken? Why not? It could be a very profitable place to privatize. Madam Speaker, you could make money. Why not let this public investment go into the hands of the private sector and into the hands of these great entrepreneurs who know how to make a profit?

Why does the minister in charge of privatization not make a proposal in this House for the privatization of old age pensions? They could also be privatized. Why not? It is a very legitimate way of making money.

The government is already privatizing the airports in Toronto, are they not? It is an interesting theme. There is a phenomenal investment in the name of the public which, the moment it could become profitable—business enterprise in the hands of the public sector can be profitable as well as when it is in private hands. There is no reason why the Canadian public cannot reap the benefits of good management and still retain ownership.

Nowhere in any text of economics has it been disclaimed, Madam Speaker, that you can have the Canadian public as a winner maintaining and retaining its

ownership rather than transforming public ownership into some kind of supermarket and allowing the latest arrival on the market to make money at the expense and with the benefit of the Canadian public.

That is Tory theology. In that sense, we can only say that they are being consistent. Why not privatize the Bank of Canada? The pattern is there. Perhaps tomorrow, we will see a proposal to that effect. If it could be profitable, the government would not stop at proposing to privatize Parliament Hill. It would also privatize the Canadian army, but there it would have some difficulties because nowhere, yet, in recent times, has a government been able to privatize its army successfully.

Bill C-73 has to be seen against that background. It is not just an isolated initiative. It is not just something that happened all of a sudden around the cabinet table because the minister wanted to make a mark in history by coming to the House to pass a bill and demonstrate that he is active. This is part and parcel, consistent with Tory ideology: the dismantling of public ownership in Canada. Of course, in the next election we will make sure that this fact is not forgotten by the electorate.

Moving to the measure itself, Madam Speaker, because time is short, let us examine what the minister promises, what is in the bill, and what the Crombie royal commission recommends.

The minister in his intervention in the House assured the nation that when it comes to the sale of the Toronto Harbourfront Corporation, which he wants to wind up and dissolve, that the following will take place, and I am reading from *Hansard* at page 13555:

—once a settlement has been negotiated with Ontario, the city of Toronto and other parties.

He proceeds by saying that:

The proceeds from the sale of the assets will be used to provide for the development of parks and infrastructure on the site—

—and finally—

and to assist in the creation of an independent, locally-controlled entity—

—listen to this—

—having a capacity to continue the very excellent cultural programming that we know takes place at Harbourfront in Toronto;