

know that private corporations on the stock market are accountable to that marketplace.

Mr. Blaikie: That is not the public.

Mr. Blenkarn: He says the marketplace is not the public. Somehow the New Democratic Party makes the New Democratic Party the public. The public knows where the New Democratic Party stands. The polls have revealed where the New Democratic Party stands—somewhere below the radar screen. There is not much that the NDP can add to this debate because it does not have much to add for the public of Canada, and that is the reason it is falling so far behind.

I join this debate again because I think it is time that Parliament reconsidered the whole purpose of the Bill. It should be referred to committee for an understanding of where we are going on Crown corporations and not be passed. The Bill should be withdrawn at the present time and there should be a House of Commons study as to where we should be going in connection with the management of our many, many Crown corporation investments.

● (1550)

On May 11 the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) indicated that he was going to produce a directorate with respect to Crown corporations. He indicated at that time that all of a sudden he had found another six brand-new Crown corporations. The other day, Sir, I was reading the financial statement of the Canadian National Railway Company for 1983, and on page 5 are listed consolidated companies owned by Canadian National. These are the companies which are consolidated into the Canadian National balance sheet. There are 46 companies consolidated into what is called the Canadian National Railways. There are 46 separate Crown-owned corporations as subsidiaries of Canadian National Railways. Not only that, Sir, but Canadian National Railways has joint operating agreements, or joint investment agreements, with another 23 corporations. That is a total of 69 corporations where the Government of Canada, through the Canadian National Railways system, is involved in the management of the affairs of this country. Bill C-24 does not deal with that kind of proliferation. It does not deal with a method whereby the people of Canada, the Government of Canada, the Parliament of Canada, or anyone can get a handle on what is happening in Canadian National Railways.

We have received a statement from Petro-Canada. Going over that statement, we find that Petro-Canada Products Inc. is the new name for BP Refining and Marketing Canada Limited, but the statement indicates that BP still exists. Then there is Petro-Canada Enterprises Inc. Then there is Petrofina Canada Inc. Then for some reason we see this statement: "Canertech Inc. was incorporated by the corporation as a wholly-owned subsidiary company to develop alternate energy sources in Canada". We got into the oil business to make sure that we Canadians had some window on the oil industry. That was the explanation given in this House. The explanation had nothing to do with alternate sources of energy. Yet this

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company, which was incorporated to make sure that Canada had a solid window on the oil industry, an ability to be self-sufficient in oil, has all of a sudden decided that it should be the vehicle of the Government for alternate energy. Under no circumstances, Sir, was this intended when that corporation was brought before this Parliament. Yet that is what has happened.

We amalgamated a series of bankrupt railways in order to make sure that Canada had adequate rail transportation. Now we have that company involved in trucking, in running buses, in running various kinds of express services, and in managing and operating hotels. We have an oil company we incorporated for the purpose of making sure Canada could be self-sufficient in oil and it is offshore exploring throughout the world in order to develop the resources of Jamaica and China. It is working to develop alternate sources of energy. Many of the purposes for which it was incorporated are not being handled, and it is on another exploration kick of its own, doing its own thing, growing, creating, proliferating; and that is where the problem is.

When the President of the Treasury Board brought before us his new directorate, he surely must have understood that that new directorate and where we stand ought to be a first consideration of Parliament before Parliament deals with legislation putting some corporations under Schedule A, some under Schedule B and some under Schedule C.

The scheduling alone in Bill C-24 is totally inadequate. There is no rationale for why some companies are in one schedule and some companies are in another schedule. Nor is there any rationale for why a company should be incorporated for a new purpose by a motion and a seven-hour debate—and that is all—whereas a subsidiary company can be incorporated with just Governor in Council, Order in Council arrangements.

The whole concept of this Bill is to mask and allow these corporations, these Crown-owned investments, to expand and spend and regulate and control the assets of the people of Canada without any real return to the people of Canada in terms of a return on investment. This condition must cease. Parliament must get a grip on the corporations which Parliament and this country presently own. We do not know really whether the figure which the President of the Treasury Board declared on May 11 is correct. We do not really know to what extent we own these corporations and where we are going with them.

I asked the other day what Mingan Associates Ltd. is. I see that our research indicates that Mingan Associates happens to be a private fishing camp. Is it not interesting that the people of Canada should own a private fishing camp? San Sebastiano is a corporation which owns land occupied by Canada's embassy to the Vatican. Why do we have these corporations? And why have we not had until now a proper explanation of them?

To present this Bill in the fashion in which it has been presented and then for the President of the Treasury Board to make the release he did on Friday last, is an affront to this Parliament. On that basis, Sir, it is only proper that this Bill