

this government, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of which claims he believes in private enterprise, even while stealing private property from the private sector he supposedly admires.

However, if this government insists on stealing, or confiscating that land, we suggest that at least there should be some question of equity. The situation is that, with respect to Canada lands, provincial lands or anywhere else, an oil company, an individual, a group of oil companies, or what have you, wishes to undertake an exploration program in an area because its geologists say that perhaps there is some oil and gas thereunder. If provincial lands are involved, the company bids for the land. If federal lands are involved, various regimes have to be gone through, but whatever the regime, whether it is bidding or approaching the ministry, rights to certain pieces of land are acquired for exploration and drilling for oil and gas. At that point in time the company has not put out a great deal of money. Perhaps it had to bid for the land in the first instance, but probably it has not put out a great deal of money. If the government were then to say, "I am coming in as a 25 per cent partner," we in this party would say the government was making a mistake, but if it were coming in at that stage of the game, at least it would be participating in the future with the company when the high risk activity is undertaken. However, this government is saying, "No, we don't want to get in at that point. We want you to go out and explore first. If you find some oil and gas," which suddenly means that this land is very valuable, "then we are going to be your 25 per cent partner. We will take 25 per cent at that point in time". That is rather like saying, "We want you to go out and buy a lottery ticket and wait for the draw, and if your ticket is drawn, we are your 25 per cent partner". This motion says that if the government is going to be a 25 per cent partner, it should get in there before the draw and take the risks with the company involved. The government should not come in after the jackpot has been won, steal 25 per cent from the company and claim it is doing so for the sake of Canadianization. It is not for the sake of Canadianization; it is for the sake of nationalization; it is for the sake of state control.

● (2050)

As I outlined in a speech in the House the other day, the rest of the world thinks we are thieves. It groups us in with countries like Algeria, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and other countries like that, as a country in which the risk of expropriation is very high.

An hon. Member: Oh, no.

Mr. Andre: I hear the hon. member. I will send him the consultant's report from Frost and Sullivan, an international consultant in the business of assessing political risk. It is their judgment, not mine, that Canada is in the banana republic category because we will, as demonstrated by this bill, confiscate private assets.

It is not just foreign multinational assets that are being confiscated. The other day I read into the record a letter from

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the president of Paramount Resources Limited, a Canadian-owned junior oil company. It described their experience. That company spent a great deal of money in Canada lands. They had some dry holes and money was lost. They found some gas in the Cameron Hills area. As a result of this policy, 25 per cent of their assets have been confiscated. That is a small Canadian company, one of the small businesses this government claims it cares about and is interested in. It claims it is interested in Canadianization. I guess that means the sheep across the way will vote against our motion and vote for the bill which will confiscate 25 per cent of small Canadian business assets in Canada lands. It is confiscating, in fact stealing, the assets of that Canadian, all under the notion of Canadianization.

That Canadian does not understand it. He does not understand how having 25 per cent of his assets stolen by the government contributes to Canadianization. I do not know how any thinking Canadian can understand or accept that kind of behaviour.

I would like to think there are some members opposite who take their responsibility as Members of Parliament seriously, that they are interested in Canadians and concerned about the picture we show to the rest of the world. I would like to think they are concerned about the private sector, individual Canadians like Mr. Riddell of Paramount Resources. I would like to think they are interested in assuring these Canadian entrepreneurs, those taking the risks, that the government does not view them as a threat or as menacing. Rather, these people should be encouraged and protected. The government should want to see these people searching for oil and gas. I hope members opposite will give serious consideration to what they are doing to Mr. Riddell of Paramount Resources, to the reputation of Canada and Canadians as honest people, people who believe in fairness, justice, the value of private property and private initiative.

Rather than examine what the Prime Minister has done, members opposite should look at his speech of last Thursday. At that time the Prime Minister said he believes in the private sector. He thinks the motivating power for growth of this economy will come from there. If they are going to support their Prime Minister, they have to support that and oppose what has been brought forward by the energy minister and his henchman "Red-end Clark" and others. They should stand up, earn their salaries and seats in the House of Commons and not docilely acquiesce to whatever the minister says. They should recognize that by voting against the motion we have put forward and voting for the legislation, they are voting for confiscation. They are voting for theft and a kind of behaviour that has never before been considered by a Parliament of Canada. In fact, it has never before been acted upon by any democratic country in this world.

Frankly, I would have difficulty calling myself a Canadian and what that represents if I supported this kind of legislation calling for confiscation. I do not see how anyone could look in the mirror and say "I am a Canadian, I believe in what this country stands for, I am here as a Member of Parliament, here