

*Canadair Limited Divestiture Act*

1972-74 in getting Mr. Trudeau to accept the idea of a Crown corporation in the oil industry, which was eventually called Petro-Canada. I was very proud to work for some time on the committee discussing that particular issue.

There was nothing but opposition from members of the Conservative Party, day after day, week after week, month after month, to Petro-Canada. Just as they are doing now about the Canadair and de Havilland questions, they would rail, rant and rave against public participation in the oil industry. Then when they won the election, they wanted to privatize and the Canadian people said no. They reacted by electing a new Government and more New Democrats from western Canada. We took seats from Conservative Members in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) was elected federally for his Party for the first time. One of the reasons for this was the Conservative Party's stand on Petro-Canada.

Members of the Conservative Party realized that they were wrong in trying to privatize Petro-Canada, just as I hope they will soon realize they are wrong in trying to privatize some of these other big Crown corporations. Early in the spring of 1980, the former Leader of the Conservative Party, the then Leader of the Opposition, announced that the Conservative Party had changed its mind on the Petro-Canada question. It would no longer privatize it. Conservatives would keep Petro-Canada as one of our national Crown corporations.

**Mr. Della Noce:** Not true. He doesn't know what he's talking about.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Nystrom:** I see that the Hon. Member from Montreal does not agree at all with me, but if he examines, as I hope he will, the minutes of the House, *Hansard*, he will find a speech by Mr. Clark who was then leader of the Opposition and said that the Conservative Party had changed its mind and wanted Petro-Canada to remain a Crown corporation. However, Madam Speaker, now that the Conservative Government has purchased Gulf and Petro-Canada has become bigger than ever under a Conservative Government which now agrees with the idea of having the Crown corporation, Petro-Canada—

[*English*]

—which is of course a nationally-owned oil company.

That is the history of privatization under the Conservative Party. As well, it is a history of the reaction of the Canadian people to public ownership in Canada. Canadians are very proud of many of their national institutions and they realize the need for a mix between private, co-operative and public ownership.

Before I sit down, Madam Speaker, I want to say a little more about the principle of privatization. I will do so as a Member of Parliament from Saskatchewan. I noticed that the Hon. Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gustafson) was here a few

moments ago. Perhaps he is still somewhere in the House and would like to comment on my remarks later on.

I come from a province which probably has more public ownership and Crown corporations than any other province in Canada, the Province of Saskatchewan. Many of those Crown corporations were started up back in the 1940s when Tommy Douglas was Premier of the province. Our Party was in power for some 20 years. In 1964 when the Party was defeated the Liberal Premier, Ross Thatcher, kept most of those important Crown corporations. He privatized a few of them but he kept the basic and fundamental ones. Then Allan Blakeney became the Premier for another 11 years. At that time, there was once again an expansion of Crown corporations in Saskatchewan. Now under Grant Devine, the Conservative Premier of Saskatchewan, the major Crown corporations have been kept, once again showing that the Conservative Party realizes that there is a very important role for Crown corporations to play in Canada.

In Saskatchewan there are publicly-owned utilities like the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, Saskatchewan Telecommunications and Saskatchewan Transportation Company. As well, there are many very important economic Crown corporations, including Saskatchewan Mining and Development Corporation and one of the biggest Crown corporations, the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan. None of these corporations has been privatized by a very Conservative, right-wing Government headed up by Premier Grant Devine.

I would argue that there is genuine support for very strong publicly-owned corporations. Corporations like Canadair should remain in the public sector and de Havilland should not have been sold to Boeing. Indeed, these corporations should be publicly owned. I think there is a very important role for the public sector to play in our society.

**Mr. Della Noce:** Vote Liberal.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Nystrom:** I am not a Liberal at all, I am a Social Democrat, Madam Speaker. The Hon. Member for Montreal East was a Liberal, which I was not, and if I am not mistaken, he was active with the Liberal Party for a long time.

**Mr. Della Noce:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) on a point of order.

**Mr. Della Noce:** Madam Speaker, I believe my hon. colleague is unintentionally and inadvertently misleading the House, for I never belonged to any political party, Liberal or other, before I was elected in 1984.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) has the floor.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I accept the remarks of the Hon. Member for Montreal East. Maybe it was another Conservative Member, I apologize. Maybe the Hon.