

cessions should be made directly to the people who are going to buy the houses. If enough rebates, such as that of the building tax, were made to the individual buying a house, there would be no point in having a down payment on a house.

• (1630)

It is all very well for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson) to talk about row housing, condominiums and apartments—but that kind of housing is not acceptable to 90 per cent of the country. It is acceptable to 80 per cent of the population living in the major cities, but not to the rest of the country. Most people want single family dwellings and are willing to accept shortcuts in the type of accommodation they can afford. For them to achieve this, the minister will have to provide better incentives than those outlined in the tax legislation.

There is another point which is very important to all Canadians. In the last few days I have been shocked to hear the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) talk about the concessions they are willing to make to the oil consortium which was formed to develop the tar sands. Mr. Speaker, I say, let them go broke: make every effort to see that they go broke so that the tar sands will fall back to the people of Canada to develop. The other day the minister said they were not able to raise half a billion dollars; but somebody in this country is raising \$375,000 for an Olympic stadium.

Mr. Poulin: Private enterprise.

Mr. Peters: It is not private enterprise. We allow the Mint to provide coins at cost, and the profit from their sale goes to the Olympics. The surtax on postage stamps also goes to the Olympics. Free enterprise be damned! There is no free enterprise. Free enterprise originally stood for competitive enterprise. Who is competing? The oil companies got together to get as much as they could out of the government. Corporate enterprise in this country is the most highly subsidized sector of the economy: everybody who has studied it knows that. The Minister of Finance should be looking at whether we want to provide a huge rip-off for the oil companies, or oil for Canada at reasonable cost.

If the oil companies do not go ahead with the project—and I sincerely hope they do not—I am sure it will be easy for the federal government, in co-operation with Alberta and Ontario and probably with British Columbia and several other provinces, to find the money to establish a government agency to develop the oil sands and sell the production to the oil companies. It is interesting to consider one oil company in the tar sands operation now, Great Plains which is owned by Sun Oil of the United States. They are producing about 80,000 barrels per day.

Mr. Stanfield: It is not Great Plains; it is Canadian Oil Sands.

Income Tax

Mr. Peters: I stand corrected. We will refer to it as the company that is operating. It is owned by Sun Oil, and that sufficiently identifies it. It is producing oil and selling it to its own company at whatever price it wants. It is easy to sell at less than cost and then charge this government for the loss.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): You know me better than that.

Mr. Peters: I thought I did. The concessions that have been made recently indicate that the oil companies will benefit, rather than the Canadian people. Now is the time for the Canadian people to take over this resource. Ontario is aware that they will either have to deal with the Arabs or join in a consortium of governments. They are not afraid of public enterprise; they probably have more enterprise under their Conservative government than all the public ownership in Canada, including airlines and railways.

An hon. Member: You should be looking at the Ontario Northland Railway.

Mr. Peters: They own their own railroad and their own airline. If they need something, and the only way to get it is to finance it themselves, that is what they will do. Ontario has plenty of money to invest in oil. If the minister's tax concessions go through, that oil will be sold at the international price, and from then on it will be difficult to run an economic operation. I am sure the minister has given consideration to those who hold the patents, the leases and all the other considerations. We have had employment problems for a long time now, with unemployment at over 5 per cent and in many parts of the country over 10 per cent. It is time the minister looked at some proposition which would provide employment for years ahead. I suggest oil is one area—and it should be run by public enterprise, not limited to the federal or a provincial government but to a consortium of governments. In this way, oil would be provided to the consumers of Canada at reasonable cost.

I say "Let them go bankrupt" when I refer to the tar sands consortium because of our experience with the railroads. The people to my right will say Canadian National Railways is nationalized—but if that is so, why have we never paid for it? There is as much money owing on that railway today as there was when we bought it. All we have paid is the interest on the money that the Canadian people paid for the Grand Trunk Railway. We have not had enough sense to transfer that into the general debt and handle Canadian National Railways as a Crown corporation. As long as we keep bailing it out, it is not a Crown corporation but an extension of government. Every time it shows a loss, the Canadian Pacific Railway is able to put its tax structure on the same basis. The Canadian people bailed out the Grand Trunk Railway and all the other railways that went bankrupt at that time.