Canada Petroleum Resources Act

We talked about the Government's policies. There are no policies. The Western Accord was brought forward, but that was a position paper. No thought has been given to dealing with changing conditions. The Minister said that for the first time the Western Accord provides for revenue sharing on offshore oil and gas resources on the same basis as on land. There is a very big difference here because offshore resources are a lot more expensive to obtain. Certainly we have to maintain interest in land-based reserves.

The Minister says the accord is based upon the quality of Government and shared management while providing for the national interest and self-sufficiency. Try and tell that to the people of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Newfoundland was told that this was a new day, this agreement is better than the one the province was offered by the former Liberal Government. The Government eliminated the terrible back-in provision because it favoured Canadian companies and individuals. We cannot allow that to continue. The Government was going to offer a royalty sharing provision. Where is the activity, the exploration and development? Where are the royalties? It is great to have a program which says we are going to get 50 per cent royalties, but if there is no follow through, no development, then 50 per cent of nothing is nothing. That is what the Provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia are getting, nothing, zilch, zero.

What about the Province of Nova Scotia? That province is being punished for signing the agreement. John Buchanan, the Premier, wanted that agreement signed before the House adjourned at the end of June, 1984. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources never forgave him for not having faith in the Conservatives being elected in the ensuing federal election. So the people of his province are being punished. After the Western Accord was signed the Minister said she would sign a new agreement with Nova Scotia. She said, "Just give me a weekend to rest". That was over a year ago and she has been resting a long, long time.

It seems that the companies with deep pockets will be the ones who will produce on frontier lands, not Canadians. Canadians are being frozen out of the frontier by the policies of this Government. Those policies are destroying the principle of Canadianization on the frontier. On the one hand, the Government says Canadianization is an important principle, and on the other hand, Canadianization is being destroyed by these policies. The Government is saying one thing and doing another. The Tories said they increased Canadianization from 42 per cent to 47 per cent since they took over from the former Liberal Government. The Liberal Government increased Canadianization from 28 per cent to 42 per cent. The Tories said they increased it from 42 per cent to 47 per cent. How? By the sale of Gulf Canada to Olympia & York, and the sale of Gulf's downstream assets in Ontario and western Canada to PetroCan. When the former Liberal Government said it wanted to buy PetroFina to create a window on the marketplace for Canadian consumers, so that they could purchase

gasoline from their own company, that is what they wanted and what they still want. Now we have not only a window, we have a greenhouse, which is eliminating competition at the refining end. The Government has created a monster in PetroCan. The company, because of the Government, has developed economic rabies; it has turned on the producers and consumers. It is gouging them by paying a low price for the product and charging consumers a price that is far too high for that product.

How has all this started? It started with the policies of this Government because it wants to issue shares of Petro-Canada to the private sector. It wants to piecemeal Petro-Canada, to sell shares to the private sector so Canadians will have to pay for Petro-Canada yet a third time. The first time was when we purchased the companies that now make up Petro-Canada; the second, by the inflated price at the pumps Canadians will be paying; and the third, we will be paying for it in the market-place so that good brokerage fees will be given to the friends of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the Government.

a (1540)

Canadians own Petro-Canada now. They do not have to buy it. They already own it. It is a travesty to make Canadians think that they are going to be better off with a private share placement of Petro-Canada. What is happening now? Where is our security of supply? Our Canadianization is gone. Our security of supply is going. Why is this happening? Where does it stand? I think it is very important to focus on this because some day we are going to look back on this legislation before the House, as we look back on Bill C-85 and we look back on all the policies of this Government, and we are going to condemn this Government from coast to coast for the policies that the Government is putting forward.

What are these policies? The Government is saying that Canada is open for business. With Investment Canada we now have the foreign companies welcome in Canada with practically no review whatsoever, to buy up Canadian companies. As the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) said, Canada is open for business, but Canada is not for sale. Canadian companies are not going to be given away piecemeal to foreign companies. How can this happen in the oil and gas industry? Because the majors have a lot of money. They have cut back their investment, they have cut back their exploration program, they have the money. All they have to do is to wait for the producers to go bankrupt and pick up the existing resource of oil and gas that these small companies have, for bankruptcy prices.

This is where we are going to lose our Canadian companies in the upstream, the resource sector. What is going to happen to our security of supply? The Husky upgrader is not important to this Government. The frontier development is not important to this Government. What is important to this Government? Making the big boys happy is what is important to this Government, not considering the people we brought into the energy field through production, not the consumer, but the