

3. Is it the intention of the government to turn the Pinetree Radar Site over to the local communities and, if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

Return tabled.

ADVERTISING COSTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INFORMATION CANADA

Question No. 1,340—**Mr. Huntington:**

1. What was the total cost of advertising in (a) the Department of Labour (b) Information Canada for the years 1972-73 and 1973-74?

2. What was the breakdown of the programmes against the total cost of advertising for these years?

Return tabled.

ENERGY CONSERVATION ADVERTISEMENT, MONTREAL "GAZETTE"

Question No. 1,851—**Mr. Towers:**

1. (a) What newspapers carried the full-page advertisement on energy conservation which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* on February 26, 1975 (b) how many editions of each paper will publish the ad?

2. What other forms are being used to publicize the ad?

3. What will be the total cost of this advertising in all forms of publicity?

4. On what date will publication of the ad terminate?

Return tabled.

● (1500)

Mr. Speaker: Before leaving the subject of questions on the order paper, may I suggest to the House that the proposed change in providing for the daily presentation of replies to questions on the order paper will entail an alteration in the printing of the order paper. Presently, notice of questions as received is printed daily on the notice paper and a consolidation of all questions is printed on Mondays, with a listing of question numbers on Wednesdays. In order to cut down or to eliminate what may be considered as superfluous printing, I suggest that in future the notice of written questions be printed daily as received, and that the consolidated notice of written questions be printed but once a week, on Mondays. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PETRO-CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH CROWN CORPORATION

The House resumed, from Wednesday, March 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) that Bill C-8, to establish a national petroleum company, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Petro-Canada

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, this is my first opportunity to make a few remarks on Bill C-8 to establish a national petroleum company. The short title of the act is to be the Petro-Canada Act. The government, under this act, will seek authority to establish a Crown corporation to be known as Petro-Canada.

I hope the first ministers' conference this week will do great things for our resource industries. I hope the first ministers will arrive at important decisions to the benefit of all Canadians. I think this conference will become a highlight of our system of confederation and I hope we shall see consultation, instead of confrontation, involving federal and provincial constitutional rights.

In considering Bill C-8 I have talked to personnel of the oil companies—of the majors, as it were. What is their position? Although they do not endorse a national corporation for oil in Canada, they are not opposed to it. Why not, Mr. Speaker? They contend it will not interfere with their business; it will not do much in the field of exploration; it will not do much except soak up taxpayers' money; it will become, as some have described it, a tax sink offering no competition in the field of exploration. The consensus as I understand it is that the corporation will be another operation costing taxpayers many millions of dollars.

Let me point out that in no part of the world, so far as I am aware, has a Crown corporation of the type we are setting up been successful in bringing about the sort of development we envisage. Why should they be successful? After all, they do not use their own high-risk capital in exploring for oil and gas, and Crown corporations are not subject to the discipline of private corporations. I therefore wish to deal with this subject strictly from the taxpayer's, the Canadian's point of view.

Why should I, or for that matter why should anyone oppose the setting up of a Crown corporation in respect of oil? The hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) and the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Balfour) have set out clearly the weaknesses of the bill we are debating and the weaknesses of the arguments promoting the formation of a Crown corporation for oil to be known as Petro-Canada. I am opposed to the establishment of a Crown corporation for oil for the following reasons, but before I give the details let me make one thing clear: there is a place for Crown corporations in our system but it is not in the high-risk capital business.

The record will show, I think, that the proposed Crown corporation, like others, will be highly inefficient. Let us consider some other Crown corporations. The government has agreed to erase a \$3.5 billion debt incurred by CNR, Air Canada and the St. Lawrence Seaway. That \$3.5 billion is taxpayers' money which has not earned interest. It could have earned interest had it been invested in the private sector. The seaway is a different cup of tea, of course. But if the private sector had run up such an enormous debt, would it have been able to write it off? The private sector would not be able to write off \$3.5 billion of taxes owed. Such a large debt could only be created by inefficiency, lack of knowledge and lack of drive.

When the government backs an enterprise, what incentive does it provide to make the enterprise pay? You cannot fire the employees or change the president without