

House by the late David Lewis. He referred to corporate welfare.

Mr. Miller: Bums.

Mr. McCain: What we are getting in this bill is an extension of corporate welfare which the New Democratic Party en masse ridiculed completely.

Mr. Waddell: I agree with that.

Mr. McCain: We are back into corporate welfare at the expense of the taxpayer. The taxpayer pays every single cent of that corporate welfare. While we are in that structure, we are depriving the taxing authority of the Government of Canada of an opportunity to receive revenue which otherwise might have accrued to it. We have put constraints upon that corporate structure of Canada, both Canadian and foreign, which is not going to give it the opportunity to be a tax base for this nation. Every move that has been made will cost the taxpayer money. The government has no money other than the money which comes from the taxpayer.

● (1730)

When these rights and privileges are given to Petro-Canada, or some other Crown corporation, it is imposing upon the consumers of Canada, who are the taxpayers, an additional price because the billions of dollars that have been spent in the off shore and distant lands of Canada—

Mr. Waddell: I thought they were stealing it.

Mr. McCain: They are stealing it from some and taxing others to pay for it. That is precisely what they are doing. Those corporations which have that money, whether it be Dome which comes under the proper characteristics for the Canadian government, or any other company, will have to charge Canadian consumers more to recover those billions of dollars which have been spent than they would otherwise have had to charge. We are giving—the word stealing is quite appropriate—

Mr. Whelan: It is not.

Mr. McCain: If it were yours, you would accuse the government of stealing. You would not tolerate the idea of expropriation without compensation, and that is precisely what is in this bill. Let us take a quarter of your farm, then. You will not miss it. You cannot have a quarter of my house without a fight. I want compensation when that happens. It is all I have.

This is the only place in the world you can have expropriation without compensation, and the taxpayers will pay.

If Petro-Canada were given the opportunity to function in real competition with other Canadian companies, all the complaints would stop on this side of the House. But when you are going to put—

Mr. Whelan: That sounds slippery.

Canada Oil and Gas Act

Mr. McCain: I am not as slippery as the Minister of Agriculture with respect to his responsibilities in his own portfolio.

However, let us get off the socialist slide. The results of socialism are evident when we look at Sweden which has absolutely unmanageable financial problems with respect to both foreign exchange and fiscal and monetary loans which are required from outside that land to keep it going. England had a socialist regime, and only this week we heard the government say that British Leyland will never open its doors again except under certain conditions. The taxpayer cannot maintain the burden to keep it operating. Let us not get ourselves into that mess.

Mr. Waddell: What about West Germany?

Mr. McCain: Yes. It is giving assistance to business. It is not standing in its way. It is allowing consortiums to produce and operate in a free enterprise structure which gives them business anywhere in the world. In this country we have a government and a splinter opposition which have defied the facts of success in every viable economy in this world and have blinded themselves utterly to the failures and difficulties occurring in socialist governments.

The government should provide for free trade, free competition, comparable tax policy, comparable opportunity for exploration and opportunity for development and consortium opportunity, but it should let Petro-Canada make its own money without the backing of the taxpayers. Let it buy its own land, lease its own lands and explore its own lands. Let it form a consortium with other companies, but let the government not put the burden on the taxpayer by giving Petro-Canada a gift of 25 per cent of somebody else's property. That will only let them compete in an unfair way. Let us not have a company managed by political hacks.

If Petro-Canada, with its funds supplied by the taxpayer, were turned loose in the free enterprise market of Canada without that support from the Crown and taxpayer, how long would it last? Under those circumstances it would not last, and therefore its existence is not justified. It should be put out on its own.

Mr. Waddell: The CPR.

Mr. McCain: All right, the CPR. So they own half of the centre of Edmonton. When the CPR was built, the city of Edmonton might have had a half dozen wigwams in it. Because it is now in the centre of the city of Edmonton, is not the fault of our ancestors who gave it to them. The city of Vancouver had a few scows, and the railroad gave that city the opportunity to build. Otherwise, it would never have been the trading centre it is today.

Let us not philosophize and indoctrinate the people of Canada with false statements such as, "We gave them half of downtown Vancouver." What an insidious statement that is. Anyone who would just apply a little logic and who had some