

Canagrex

Aquilla Holdings Ltd.; Fifth Pacific Stations Ltd.; GMI Co. (Bahamas) Limited; Opal Oils Limited; Commodore Oils Limited; First Pacific Stations Ltd.; Second Pacific Stations Ltd.; Third Pacific Stations Ltd.; Fourth Pacific Stations Ltd.; Pacific Petrochemicals Ltd.; Pacific Pipelines, Inc.; Pacific Petroleum (Overseas) Limited; Petro-Canada Enterprises Inc.; Arctic Islands Resources Ltd.; Independent Fuels & Lumber Ltd.; Joseph Elie Limitée; March Dufresne (1979) Inc.; Petro-Canada Chemicals Inc.; Petro-Canada Espanola S.A.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, there can only be one reason for such an animated reading into the record of the list the Hon. Member is reading at this time. He must seriously be considering a last minute bid for the leadership, because he is certainly not relevant to what is being debated in the House today.

Mr. Taylor: At least he is talking to the point; that is more than you did.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Chair is exercising considerable leniency in ruling in favour of the Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills. It seems to me the matter is rather on the borderline at this stage.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, you can see the point being made. The people who want state control and ownership are very upset about this. All these corporations have come out since 1976. I am going to tell the Canadian people about it, and they are going to listen because they now see the danger of that Government.

Why do we need Petro-Canada Espanola S.A.? Why do we need Petro-Canada Norway A.S.? Why do we need Petro-Canada Petroleum Inc., Petro-Canada Products Inc., Petro-Canada Resources, Petro-Canada (U.K.) Limited, Petroleum Transmission Company, Petron Petroleum Ltd., Rocair Limited, Tri-Mountain Petroleum Ltd., Value Serve Stations Ltd., or Venezuelan Canadian Oils, C.A.?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Chair must really bring this matter to some finality. In the Chair's opinion, the Hon. Member has departed considerably from the subject of the amendments at hand.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I accept your ruling.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I must invite the Hon. Member to relate his comments to the object of the amendments. Some of them deal with loans and guarantees, others with financial arrangements, the promotion and trade of agricultural produce and so on. The orientation of the Hon. Member's speech is really taking us into the field of energy per se, which is another substantial matter which ought to be debated at another time. I invite the Hon. Member to relate his remarks to Canagrex.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I could read on and on from the list of Petro-Canada subsidiary corporations, but I certainly

accept your ruling that it might not be strictly relevant. I think the point has been made. I can tell Members opposite, some of them who come from eastern European countries and should know better because they have friends and relatives who are living and suffering in those countries right now, that this Canagrex legislation is going to be exactly the same.

Mr. Blais: Don't be silly.

Mr. Thacker: It will not be tomorrow; it will be two years or five years down the road, and I will be standing up here reading a list of corporations which are subsidiaries of Canagrex. When the Estimates came in, I stood and asked the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray): "Will this be all?" They were bragging about how it was only a 10 per cent increase over last year. I pointed out how the increases are always up 17 per cent when the Supplementary Estimates come in. He stood up and said "Oh, there will be no Supplementary Estimates. Don't worry about it, Mr. Thacker". Well, in fact we have already had one set of Supplementary Estimates for \$1.3 billion. The federal Government spending will be up 17 per cent this year, as it has been for every year recently.

Within a very few short years, Mr. Speaker, Canagrex will have itself subsidiary corporations which will take over more and more of the food industry. The cost, which is the important point, will come out of taxpayers' pockets. Ordinary Canadians will be paying for the high, fancy salaries of dozens and dozens of directors and presidents of these corporations.

One of my amendments to this Bill is to make those salaries public. The Government rejects that because it does not want the ordinary Canadian to see how much some of the Liberal political friends are making in these appointments to jobs as presidents and directors. If the Liberals were not of that mind, Mr. Speaker, why did they not accept my amendment to make that information public? Why would they not put a limitation on the tenure of directors? My amendment would have done that, and the Government is going to reject it. It is just like the situation we found when we got in Government in 1979. Some of the Liberal's best friends had been appointed to powerful positions for ten years, I think in one case it was for 20 years. What kind of Government is that? These appointments should be limited to three years, with perhaps one renewal if they are lucky. After that we would bring other people in because that is a way of renewing and revitalizing these corporations and making them more sensitive. That is one of the amendments we want to make to this Canagrex Bill and it is not there.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the main point we are trying to make is that these Crown corporations are a sub-Government. They permit an unnatural concentration of power and decision-making authority over the lives of other people, and they do it on a non-accountable basis to Members of Parliament, the elected representatives. If you talk to Canadians on the street, they believe that we as their elected representatives should be exercising some control over these corporations. But