

Minister Mulroney, and the spirit of Meech Lake must guide the constitutional reorganisation of this country if we are to proceed. I agree that it might be necessary to wait a few years. But it does not mean to continue the paralysis in this House. Again in the spirit of Meech Lake and with the will to better serve Canadians whose parliamentary system provides that elected leaders must decide, I hope the Prime Minister will undertake to fill the Senate vacancies with competent and hard-working people who put Canada's interests first.

Senator Hébert: And vote on the right side.

Senator Simard: No, Senator Hébert, let the Senate do its job, study the bills, Bills C-21's C-28, C-62, and all the others. And at last, let the government operate.

Senator Hébert: No matter what people are asking us.

Senator Simard: Of course, people will continue to ask you, Senator Hébert, not to tax them and to keep VIA Rail trains in operation, even if only 10 per cent of the population use it. You will continue to try to please everybody as you did until 1984. We know where it led us.

I will conclude on that. I hope we will allow the Canadian parliamentary system to work hand-in-hand with an elected House of Commons and a responsible Senate. Thank you, honourable senators.

Hon. Gildas Molgat: Honourable senators, would you allow me a question?

Senator Simard: Yes, Senator Molgat.

Senator Molgat: A little earlier in your speech, you referred to the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and of senators. Did I understand you well when you said that for those provinces which supported the Meech Lake Accord the agreed process where provinces submit a list would be maintained?

Senator Simard: No, Senator Molgat, I said I hoped the spirit of Meech Lake would be respected. As for the appointment of judges, I am informed that traditionally, consultations with Quebec and other provinces were still taking place.

You put many things on the back of the Prime Minister and I hope he is not so stupid as to accept appointment proposals put forward by Mr. Wells who said no to Meech Lake when the time will come to appoint senators from Newfoundland. I hope you are not that ridiculous. That would be obscene. As for the other provinces, I think that we could abide by the spirit of Meech Lake.

Since I am given this opportunity, I wish to deal with an important matter which I am sorry to say I had forgotten about and about which I care a great deal.

Great is the temptation today for the supporters of the Meech Lake Accord, in Quebec and elsewhere, to advise the Prime Minister to retaliate against the provinces which have disgraced him and which have not respected their signature, such as for instance Newfoundland. In spite of all this, I invite

the Prime Minister and the government to keep on giving favourable consideration to the project and to tell us whether—and I am referring here to the Ibernica project—it will go ahead if it is environmentally and financially sound. I think I know the Prime Minister well enough and his statements are here to prove it, to tell you that he is not a person to hold a grudge. I wanted to express my support for this project which will create jobs and will supply us with energy in due course. I ask Quebecers and others who might be tempted to punish Tom, Dick and Harry—

Senator Hébert: That is not nice. Vengeance is not nice.

Senator Simard: No, the times when Liberal governments used to punish riding residents who had voted against them are over. I hope so.

Senator Flynn: Mackenzie King would not give a nickel to the Tory provinces.

Senator Simard: I support this bill and I hope it will pass. Hibernia is not Clyde Wells' project. Maybe you do not know that, Senator Olson. It is not Clyde Wells' project. As a matter of fact Clyde Wells even went to the Supreme Court or to some other court to debate the issue of control over the natural and energy resources of his province. Great constitutionalist though he may be, he lost his case.

Senator Flynn: Thank God!

Senator Simard: It is definitely not his project. It is the project of Brian Peckford, John Crosbie and Ross Reed, of the then Conservative government and the people of Newfoundland.

I just saw some feigning innocence in the House of Commons. Tobin and company rose, scandalized, predicting as they have for two years all the bleakest scenarios, the end of the world if Meech Lake passed. They got up today and said that the Prime Minister must assure them that he would table the Hibernia bill today. I would like to take Jake Epp at his word when he says that it is not necessary to have a bill now. There were other ways to start the project and support it. We have nothing to learn from the Liberal Party and we will not be threatened by them. They are the ones—not the native people, not Manitobans, not the three party leaders in Manitoba—who killed the Meech Lake Accord. The natives did not do it. It was Clyde Wells. He withdrew his predecessor's support from Meech Lake and went back on his word given to June 9, his own signature with asterisks and everything. He killed the Meech Lake Accord, aided and abetted by his mentor who remained in Montreal. Thank you, honourable senators.

Senator Gigantès: Honourable senators, I would like to adjourn this debate in my name and let you hear from another Quebecer tomorrow.

Senator Flynn: Senator Gigantès, do not push it.

The Hon. the Speaker: Moved by Hon. Senator Gigantès, seconded by Hon.—