

**Mr. Chrétien:**—of the federal government in the matter of offshore resources. We want to make sure that the benefit of those resources accrues to the people of the provinces who could benefit from them.

**Mr. McGrath:** A supplementary question, Madam Speaker. In selling their soul for a little potash, the NDP sold what few friends they had left in the Atlantic provinces and that is a sad day. I should like to ask the minister why the question of renewable resources was not included in the—

**An hon. Member:** You did a great job.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McGrath:** Madam Speaker, the truth obviously hurts.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** I should like to ask the minister why the question of renewable resources was not included in the government's package, knowing full well the importance, for example, of the development and transmission of hydroelectricity to the Atlantic provinces.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Madam Speaker, I should like to reply to the first part of the question of the hon. member and tell him that our position on offshore resources was well explained to the people of Newfoundland and they gave up one more seat in the last general election.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Chrétien:** In our negotiations during the summer with Premier Peckford we said that we have some powers in inter-provincial trade that could be used if need be. I am amazed to see Premier Peckford always giving us all sorts of problems, but when he needs the federal government he always calls on us to help him get his electricity across Quebec.

**Mr. McGrath:** That is a constitutional right and you know it.

**Mr. Chrétien:** In order to get that, we need a strong federal government. If he wants us to help, I think he should stop making the kind of statement that he made yesterday.

**Mr. Clark:** Roger Simmons just walked out.

**Mr. McGrath:** That is a constitutional right and you know it.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. Order, please. I have to remind both hon. members that when the Speaker rises in her chair they must resume their seats. We were listening to the hon. Minister of Justice.

**An hon. Member:** He is finished.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Chrétien:** Madam Speaker, in the resolution it is clearly stated that there would be no possibility of changing the borders of any province without the approval of the province. It was demagogy on the part of the premier to try to create the impression to the contrary.

**Mr. Crombie:** This is a deadlock.

**Mr. Chrétien:** The same thing applies to the right to have religious education in the provinces.

**Mr. McGrath:** Madam Speaker, is the Minister of Justice of Canada now telling this House that Newfoundland does not have, under section 95 of the BNA Act, the right to transmit its power through the province of Quebec to Ontario and elsewhere? Is that the position he is taking as Minister of Justice? We are not looking for help; we are just looking for this government to get—

• (1440)

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Madam Speaker, whenever there is a market for electricity, we will be willing to help the province of Newfoundland—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Chrétien:**—with the federal powers that we have. If we were to listen to the opposition and weaken the federal government with a type of community of communities, it would be impossible for us to help Newfoundland under those circumstances.

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### COMMUNICATIONS

#### PAY TV—SUGGESTED CHANGE IN POLICY BY CRTC

**Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody):** Madam Speaker, following this sort of general hubbub and acrimony, I have a very gentle question for the Minister of Communications.

**An hon. Member:** A very gentle minister.

**Mr. Rose:** In view of the simultaneous CRTC and ministerial announcements yesterday that pay TV in Canada is to proceed forthwith, despite the fact that the CRTC's own Therrien report issued in July stated on page 59 that "there is no evidence of widespread demands" and further that "the only people who demand the instant introduction of pay TV are those who expect to make profits out of it", can the minister assure the House that the CRTC, which is an autonomous regulatory body, arrived at this policy U-turn independently and without outside pressure from the minister or his department? Since the minister supports an early introduction of pay TV with no indication of how the objectives of enhanced opportunities for creative people in Canada are to be