

Government Orders

married." I thought that was a fairly legitimate objective as well.

I use that human story to point out that in this place we can very often get tied up with all kinds of legal arguments and political games. Let us remember that this legislation is good, first for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, and also for all of Canada.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception. I will then recognize an NDP member and then the hon. member for Richelieu.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to say how honoured and privileged I am to rise, both as the member from Bonavista—Trinity—Conception on the east coast of Newfoundland and as the associate critic for energy, mines and resources, to speak to these amendments.

As the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said, this is very much a housekeeping amendment and as such I have no detailed comments *per se*. If I could be permitted, there are a number of comments I would like to make at this point in time.

I would like to say at the outset that, as a Newfoundlander, I am very pleased—in fact, I am overwhelmed—about what this is going to do. Again, as the Minister said, this is not the be all and an end all. There are all kinds of *i*'s to be dotted and *t*'s to be crossed. But I would like to make the point that it is good not just for Newfoundland, it is good for all of Canada. The expenditures that are going to be involved and the oil resources and revenues are going to benefit Canada, not just from the participation and the spinoffs economically, but, indeed, reducing our dependence on white oil.

If I can perhaps be allowed a bit of a motion in this particular aspect, I would again look at the Newfoundland benefit. I would like to go back to the reference the hon. Minister made with respect to the Hon. J.R. Smallwood, the first Premier of Newfoundland. Indeed, it is generally well known by anybody who has been involved with Hibernia that he was the first. He sent a diver down on the Grand Banks because he believed in his province and he believed that if we were going to

succeed as a province in the long run we were going to have to diversify from the 1497 comment of John Cabot who said: "Fish were teaming. You can catch them in baskets." It is not quite that way any more.

At about the time that Mr. Smallwood was laying the plaque at the bottom of the Grand Banks, I was a lot younger than I am now. I remember the kind of songs that we used to sing in folklore, songs like *Lots of Fish in Bonavista Harbour*, *Lots of Fishing Around Here*; songs like *Tickle Cove Pond*; songs like *The Trinity Cake*; songs like *A Great Big Sea Hove in Long Beach*. Happy songs. Songs that said that although there were always hardships in Newfoundland we could always see through the hardships because there was always the hope that something would come along next year. I remember my grandfather having tough years and good years in the fishing and his father before him. There was always hope that something would come along that we did not have to have these alternatively good and bad years.

Now what are we seeing in Newfoundland just before Hibernia is signed again? The song that is now being sung and understood very much in Newfoundland, if I could be permitted, is a song made popular by the late Stan Rogers, a very well known folk singer. It is a very emotional song. I do not propose to sing it for you, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to give you the chorus. The song is called *Make and Break Harbour* and the chorus is a very sad chorus and it goes like this:

In Make and Break Harbour the boats are so few

Too many are hauled up and rotten

Most houses stand empty

Old nets hung to dry are blown away, lost or forgotten.

Forgotten, Mr. Speaker, because of the state of the economy dependent on the fishery almost as a sole industry. Yes, we have forestry and pulp and paper, but fishery is our mainstay.

In Newfoundland in the last two years—and I do not mean to be political about this but I have to take it from my end and portray at least the 100,000 constituents in Bonavista—Trinity—Conception—you have got goods and services tax, you have claw-back, you have got Bill C-21, you have got a reduced, total allowable catch, and you have got foreign overfishing. Wherever you turn around when you get up in the morning, life is not good.