

listed some of them. They know from where the money has come to build the Trans-Canada highway and the major trunk roads in that province. They know who built the wharves, breakwaters and fishing boats. The people of Newfoundland know the need for a strong national government, a government with the strength to help those who need it most. That is why they will never condone the vision of Premier Peckford. That is why they will never agree with him that the federal government is merely a creature of the provinces, so that presumably they can change it and, indeed, destroy it at will. That is why they will never share with him the vision of Premier Lévesque.

For, while he may later have tried to wriggle out of it, he quite clearly placed himself in the Lévesque camp at the first ministers' conference. He said:

It is too bad all of Canada couldn't have viewed it yesterday when both yourself, Mr. Prime Minister, and Mr. Lévesque articulated clearer than I have ever seen it done before two different visions of Canada. Hydro power notwithstanding, I would have to side with the theory advocated by Mr. Lévesque.

That is where the dispute is, hydro power is the greatest resource we have and that is where our future lies.

Premier Peckford, like Premier Lévesque, wants a confederation of convenience. He wants the federal government when he needs it, but he wishes it was not there when it needs him. He needs the federal government to authorize pushing power from the Lower Churchill through Quebec; he wants the federal government to give orders to another province in that instance, but he wants a hands-off policy when it comes to the offshore. In that situation he wants to cut the cord and forgets about a Newfoundland contribution to the welfare of Canada. He is saying to Canada, "Yes, you've invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the fishery to develop it. Yes, you have supported fishermen and fish companies but now the companies are making a dollar and fishermen's incomes are up, we want to draw a line around Newfoundland and catch and process our own Newfoundland fish. We don't know how we'll tell Newfoundland fish from Nova Scotia fish but we'll find a way. Thanks for the ride, Canada; don't call us, we'll call you."

Similarly, the federal government has made an important contribution to the development of offshore oil. Surely federal tax incentives have played an important part in bringing all offshore exploration to its present state. Surely the role of Petro-Canada, the state-owned oil company which members opposite wanted to do away with, has been a tremendous asset to Newfoundland. In fact it is fair to say that without direct and indirect federal involvement there would be no offshore oil and gas exploration, there would be no Hibernia. According to Premier Peckford it all belongs to Newfoundland, in spite of the national need for petroleum. He is saying, "We want you around when we need you, but kindly disappear when you need us." He makes Scrooge look like the tooth fairy.

● (1640)

No nation can exist on the basis of expediency; there must be a constant sharing and not just when it is convenient. Canada has a need, a need for a secure supply of petroleum. The country which has helped and supported Newfoundland

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since 1949 now needs our help and we, as a province, should respond. We should agree to share the revenues and the control of development. That is the Canadian way, and it could work. If the provincial government were thinking "Canadian" and if they were willing to co-operate, it could work. But instead we find a constant bickering with and railing against the federal government.

Every day from the Confederation Building in St. John's the federal government is bashed as if the provincial Tories thought this was the way to win friends and influence people. Every possible opportunity is seized to blame the federal government for the ills of the province. Everything that goes wrong is the fault of the federal government. And yet the federal government is expected to step in and pick up the pieces when things fall apart. And things are falling apart because the whole focus has been on offshore. Everything else is pushed into the background. Unemployment is growing, the cost of living is rising, the construction industry is reeling while the provincial government treats its people to rhetoric on the offshore. And this in spite of the fact that we need many Hibernias to reduce our dependence on equalization grants. But you cannot put rhetoric in the bank. You cannot put rhetoric on your kitchen table. Our people want jobs and prosperity for themselves and their province.

I wish to quote from a recent letter from Mr. John MacDonald of Paradise River on the coast of Labrador. Labrador is the site of the Churchill River vast hydro potential and the member for Carleton-Charlotte referred to that. Mr. Peckford says he wants to go ahead with this development. He wants a strong federal government to order Quebec to take Labrador power through their province. He is for mobility of power but against mobility of people. The only problem is that while he has found a way to benefit the people of New York he has not found a way to benefit the people of Labrador. They see the danger of this resource, like others, moving out of their territory, with no real benefit to them. Meanwhile, conditions in Labrador are crying out for attention and the provincial government does nothing to address these conditions.

I want to quote from Mr. MacDonald's letter to a St. John's newspaper, which said in part:

People in other towns complain about the condition of their roads. We don't have a road. We have a foot path running along the edge of the river—we have one telephone in town, usable for about four hours a day. It is regularly out of order—we don't have a supermarket—we must scramble to find a wholesaler who will sell us our winter supply of food in September—medical facilities are a laugh—so Mr. Peckford when you're sitting in St. John's sometime—anticipating your next speech on oil rights, give a thought to Paradise River.

The people of Labrador are not fooled by the provincial rhetoric. They know the reality of the situation. They know that the wild talk and gestures are a smokescreen to camouflage deplorable conditions which the provincial government is doing nothing to correct. What our people want is not rhetoric but jobs. They know enough about Canada to know this can only be accomplished through co-operation with a strong federal government. Their experience in confederation tells them that it is a matter of give and take. Sometimes you take,