

*Government Orders*

matters here are important but they do not all, under the circumstances at any particular time, warrant adjourning the other business of the House to debate that matter.

I would ask the hon. member to understand that it would not be appropriate at this time to go ahead with the application. The hon. member does know that there are other avenues open to him to bring that matter to the House and, of course, to the government.

I thank the hon. member for giving me advance warning and especially the detail with which his letter dealt with the matter. It gave me a great deal of assistance and helped me to make the decision.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### HIBERNIA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ACT

ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER REPORT AND THIRD READING STAGES OF BILL C-44

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources)** moved:

That, in relation to Bill C-44, not more than one further sitting day shall be allotted to the consideration of the report stage and, one sitting day to the consideration of the third reading stage of the bill; and

That, fifteen minutes before the expiry of the time provided for government business on the day allotted to the report stage consideration and on the day allotted to the third reading stage consideration of the said bill, any proceedings before the House shall be interrupted, if required, for the purpose of this order and, in turn, every question necessary in order to dispose of the stage of the bill then under consideration shall be put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendment.

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have the opportunity to rise on this occasion to debate the motion. This is the first time I have been up to speak on the subject, and I am sure the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources would support my 10 minutes, now approximately down to nine and a half minutes.

This is a motion that hurts me to agree with, but because we are involved, not just in Newfoundland, but in Canada, the first point I really have to make is that this is a Canadian project first and foremost. It is seen

and has been seen in the last few days of debate in the House as a project that primarily affects Newfoundland. In the sense that the gravity based structure is being built in my riding in Newfoundland, one of the modules will be built in my riding, and the oil is 200 miles southeast off Newfoundland, I suppose it could be looked at as a Newfoundland project.

• (1720)

Sixty-five per cent of this project will be achieved in Canada, which is more than double any project of this nature that has been done so far. I am making reference now to essentially the North Sea oil. We have made a lot of progress in that time.

Just for the record, here is what is going to happen. The design and construction of the Hibernia project, which is the largest energy development in Canadian history, will provide important new business opportunities, challenges and items for the skills of Canadians and take them to the leading edge of technology, not just in Newfoundland, but the whole of Canada.

The oil field is being developed by a consortium of oil companies led by Mobil Oil. I think this is well known. It has extensive backing from both the federal and provincial governments. We have been working on this since the Hon. Joey Smallwood was premier of Newfoundland. How many more premiers do we have to go through? How many more times do we have to sign this? How many more times do we have to negotiate?

I have a chronology here that would go on for a long, long time. The Year 1965 was when the first exploration permit was issued to Mobil Oil. In 1966, the first hole was drilled. In the period 1966 to 1978, the exploration started. It is now 1990. In 1988 Newfoundlanders were promised that the sun would shine and have not would be no more. Later on, Canada was promised that we get this project under way.

I said that the gravity base structure, which essentially is the concrete platform that will sit in about 250 feet of water, 200 miles off Newfoundland, will be constructed in Newfoundland, with one module.

For the benefit of those who are not instructed in the actual construction of this, essentially we have one blob of platform and five modules. There will be a process module, a mud module, a utility module, a service