

*Government orders*

Commons member, and I will add that as a member of the Committee on Energy, Mines and Ressources, I have been able to notice the point of view—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I recognize the hon. member for Laurier-Sainte-Marie on a point of order.

**Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie):** We do not have a quorum. We cannot proceed without a quorum.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I believe we have a quorum. The hon. member for Richmond—Wolfe.

**Mr. Yvon Côté (Richmond—Wolfe):** Before I was interrupted, Madam Speaker, I was saying I am pleased to take part in this debate not only as a Quebec member of the House of Commons but also as a member of the Committee on Energy, Mines and Resources.

I have had an opportunity to examine the scope and consequences of this project. As many of my colleagues pointed out the Hibernia development project will create a great many new business opportunities for all regions of Canada, including Quebec.

This is a major and highly technical oil project which will bring huge benefits to Quebec. It is expected to have a significant impact and contribute to improving existing Canadian know-how and developing new skills.

Supporters of the Hibernia project should keep in mind that the government has set a series of objectives. We want to create as many jobs as possible for Canadians, train highly skilled workers, seek the assurance that contracts awarded to Canadians during the negotiations are of strategic significance and pave the way for more projects designed to develop other petroleum resources. Finally we have done our best to make sure that the work is spread among various regions.

It might be interesting to consider the economic impact of these benefits. The government has been working for a long time now to achieve these objectives. The first step was made when the government enacted the Atlantic agreement provisions concerning the economic consequences for Canada and Newfoundland and when it established the Canada—Newfoundland offshore development fund. The provisions concerning the Atlantic Accord spinoffs have been reinforced by the

Canada—Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act.

Madam Speaker, a good many Hon. members are aware of the spinoffs which Hibernia will bring to Newfoundland. For instance, the consortium has agreed to build the gravity based structure in Newfoundland. The wellhead module and other elements connected to it will be built and assembled in the same province. Moreover, a large part of the technical design will be done in Newfoundland. This is quite logical in view of the fact that these enormous infrastructures could not be moved either by land or by sea.

I must mention that Hibernia will bring additional spinoffs to other Canadian regions.

Let us have a closer look. As a Quebec member, I am pleased to see that this province will receive its share of the spinoffs, no matter what some independent members may say to the contrary, Madam Speaker. Hibernia will use over 100 000 tons of—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Hull—Aylmer on a point of order.

**Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer):** Could you check and see whether there is a quorum to listen to this Quebec Tory Member?

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** There is a quorum. The Hon. Member for Richmond—Wolfe has the floor.

**Mr. Yvon Côté (Richmond—Wolfe):** As I was saying, Madam Speaker, this structure will require over 100 000 tons of concrete which will be provided to a large extent by a number of Quebec plants.

• (1630)

It is also expected that the metal parts for the major components will be largely built in Canada. For instance, some companies could build the top sides and one of the supermodules. Surely you must be aware that on September 14, Hibernia Management and Development Company Limited awarded a contract for an important part of the Hibernia Sea Tanker to les Entrepreneurs Offshore de Terre-Neuve, a joint Canadian-European venture. Two important engineering firms in Quebec, namely SNC and Monenco Limited, are the major partners in this joint venture.