

Newfoundland Hydro

a fraction of a second that a province of this country has any right to interfere with the free movement of goods to market. In this particular case, the goods happen to be electricity.

Given the nature of the rather special relationship I enjoy with my good friend, the hon. member for St. John's West—

Mr. Waddell: Cheek to cheek.

Mr. Simmons:—the good relationship, the cheek to cheek, hand in hand relationship I have always enjoyed with him, I would do him an injustice if I sat down without pointing out in a partisan, but nevertheless positive, fashion, a couple of holes in his otherwise brilliant presentation this afternoon. I am talking about two particular holes, and he will know the two holes I am talking about.

It is difficult to keep track of this fellow, because he moves around; but I remind him that—not when he was a member of a Liberal cabinet in Newfoundland, but some time later when he was a member of a Tory cabinet, the Tory minister of finance in Newfoundland, which was before he became the Tory minister of finance here, which was before he became the Tory finance critic here, which was before he became the Tory external affairs critic here—indeed, there goes a man with his future behind him. I remind the hon. member of two holes during the period when he was the Tory finance minister, just before the Tory 1975 election, because he made much today of how much these projects, the Churchill Falls and the Lower Churchill development, have cost the people of Newfoundland and the treasury of Newfoundland, of which he was the guardian in 1975, as Your Honour will remember. I remind the hon. member that one of the reasons—\$14 million worth of the reason—is because during or just before the 1975 election, when he and his colleagues were looking for a renewed mandate from the Newfoundland people, they went down to the northwest coast of Newfoundland, in what is now the riding of my good friend, the hon. member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin), and they dug a great big hole in the ground. It cost \$7 million, mind you, so it was a big hole. They went across to the Labrador side and made another hole. If nothing else, my friend from St. John's West is a master of illusion. The illusion is that they were getting ready to dig a tunnel under the Strait of Belle Isle, so they put the two shafts down, those two multimillion dollar holes in the ground.

Therefore, I say to him in fairness that if he is going to talk about how much this project has cost the Newfoundland people so far, he should at least do a mea culpa. He should at least admit that part of the reason it has cost so much is the cheap political decision with which he was involved when he was in the Newfoundland government. One of the reasons it has cost the Newfoundland people so much money is that they have been led down the garden path so often by that particular hon. member—and it does not matter to him whether he is a provincial Liberal, provincial Tory—by the way, for a while, he was also leader of the provincial Liberal reform—

Mr. Crosbie: That's impossible.

Mr. Waddell: That's impossible.

Mr. Simmons: He was the leader of the Liberal reform in Newfoundland for a while, and then he became provincial Tory. It does not matter if he is Liberal or Progressive Conservative. As my good friend and predecessor, the Hon. Don Jamieson, said, he is now a member of the turkey trot party. Does Your Honour know what a turkey trot is? A turkey trot is one step forward and two steps backward. He will be known as "Turkey Trot Crosbie" from now on.

Mr. Crosbie: It is better than the cow plot party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired. The usual practice is to refer to hon. members by their constituencies. The hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath).

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have only two minutes, and if I exercise my right to speak for those two minutes, I would be talking out my colleague's resolution. Consequently, I have to resist the temptation to take up the two minutes to deal with the contribution of the hon. member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons), except to say for one brief moment that in speaking of illusions, I mentioned to my colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), that the hon. member for Burin-St. George's has finally cleaned up his act. However, that was an illusion because as he went on into his speech, he reverted back to his old self.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): First of all, Mr. Speaker, in the very short time allotted to me, I would like to say that my hon. colleague and good friend, the hon. member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons), has once again done an excellent job of putting forward this government's case with respect to some of the more nefarious statements made by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). I would also point out that the great friendship which exists and the closeness between the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) and the hon. member for St. John's West is evidenced by the fact that the hon. member for St. John's East is giving me the opportunity to respond to some of the allegations of the hon. member for St. John's West. My old boss, the previous member for Burin-St. George's, before my present good colleague, for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons), was fond of saying, and indeed perhaps he said it in this very House, and even perhaps to the hon. member for St. John's West, that if hot air were music, the hon. member opposite would be a brass band.

Mr. Waddell: You are full of blarney, too.

Mr. Tobin: Indeed, that is the case. This government has taken every reasonable step necessary to ensure that the potential and the opportunity which exist in Newfoundland, if approached in a mature and rational manner, not in a wild, arm's flailing, voice yelling—

Mr. Waddell: Like you are doing.