

ly, that it should carry out and complete its clause-by-clause study as quickly as possible.

Apparently, they claim that Hibernia will not yield the economic spinoffs people expected and will not contribute to the energy security of our country. They seem to overlook the fact that beyond energy security, there is the need to use some of our natural resources, so that, by selling this commodity, we may improve our balance of payment.

Together with the Committee on Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a tour of Northern Alberta where I had the opportunity to see for myself our huge tar sand deposits which represent a major source of energy for Canada. Hibernia will make it possible, not only for Newfoundland, but for Eastern Canada as a whole to develop an expertise which does not exist there, to master new technics and help Newfoundland, Maritime and Quebec people develop new techniques and participate in the realization of a major project which is important for Eastern Canada.

Thus I must tell you that as a Member of Parliament for Quebec and unlike my friends from the Bloc Québécois, I support the Hibernia Project and I hope that this House will be able to pass it as soon as possible since it holds extraordinary benefits for Quebec. Remember that when the project was announced, one single province was going to benefit from it and was promised fall-outs, and that province was Quebec. Right away, engineering and construction companies were identified as possible beneficiaries; Hibernia guaranteed them work and activities. Why then try to stall the business of the House? Why all those amendments that would delay the passage of that bill? By delaying this bill, Mr. Speaker, all we are doing is damaging the economy of Eastern Canada.

Therefore, I would like to simply ask my colleagues of the Bloc Québécois and of the NDP to support this bill, to proceed as fast as possible, to let all members speak freely on this matter, so that the Hibernia Project can be carried out for the well-being of Newfoundlanders, but also for the people of the Maritimes and Quebec.

That being said, I will give other members the opportunity to speak, now that my position is clear.

Government Orders

I would like to remind my colleague, the member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead not to worry of what might happen to me during the next election. I can take care of that very well. My constituents of the riding of Manicouagan know full well where lie their best interests. I would worry more in his place than mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join in this debate, though the points I would like to make are a little different from the points that I hear from my Liberal and Conservative colleagues and now from my colleagues in the Bloc Québécois.

As I sit here listening to this debate I am reminded somewhat of the movie, the *Ship of Fools*. We are debating the so-called spin-off benefits of a technology that we should be encouraging rather than debating how much we should subsidize. There is a bit of schizophrenia here. All members are concerned about the greenhouse effect. We have heard much talk about the greenhouse effect. It was a big issue in the Liberal leadership debate. But on the other hand, what are we doing? We are quite willing to continue subsidizing the oil industry.

• (1850)

Clearly, we are a ship of fools—

Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth): Are you against Hibernia?

Mr. de Jong: Yes, I am against Hibernia, and I am against every other oil megaproject. I think it is about time that we stopped subsidizing the oil industry. In fact, might I suggest that instead of subsidizing the oil industry we start placing a special tax on oil and gasoline in terms of how much they pollute. And the more a substance pollutes, the more it should—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. Would the hon. member please take his seat?

I would like to hear the hon. member. There is still another nine minutes left before seven o'clock. Could I have just a little bit of order? Thank you. The hon. member for Regina—Qu'Appelle.

Mr. de Jong: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.