

and Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905—until the passage in the House of the Natural Resources Transfer Act of 1930.

In respect of Newfoundland and Labrador, I will not go through a lot of history today. My colleagues from that province on both sides of the House know the history of their province much better than I do, but this summer particularly I have been somewhat steeped in the history and folklore of those people and their province.

With the Atlantic Accord came the dream that Joey Smallwood and, I am sure, many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians had—the dream that those resources would in fact be seen by the rest of Canada as being a resource, in this case, equally shared between Canada, in the right of Canada, and the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is that spirit which has surrounded this bill as it has made its way through the House and its committees.

In the committee, there were quite a number of amendments and members of both sides of the House were very co-operative and I want to thank them for that again. They were co-operative because as we were moving this enabling legislation through the House and the committee, we were also negotiating in Toronto. Therefore I had to make amendments as the negotiations were going on. Generally in this place, as most members with any experience know, it is very difficult to get legislation passed or amendments passed until every *t* is crossed and every *i* is dotted in the contractual form. That was the spirit in which this committee worked. These are the two amendments that were not caught that evening and it is in that same spirit that these amendments are brought forward.

At this time, as we enter report stage, it is important to understand what happened in Newfoundland. When the announcement on Hibernia was finally made, obviously the people of Newfoundland and Labrador welcomed this development. I was honoured to be there along with my colleagues and I invited all members of the House to that event. I was there with my colleague, the Minister for International Trade who is the hon member for St. John's East. I have had words with other colleagues from

Government Orders

the other side of the House with respect to what happened that day.

• (1720)

It is important for us to know that for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, while the Hibernia project will not bring the kind of wealth or possibly the bonanza that some have always hoped for, that it was seen, as the Prime Minister said, as more than simply another deal. It is more than barrels of oil or economic activity. Rather, it is an issue relating to fairness, equity, and dignity.

I hope that this legislation is seen in that light and, while it benefits the people of Newfoundland and Labrador in the first instance as it should, that members on both sides of the House will recognize that it brings the final act in legislative and legal terms to fruition.

I also hope that members of the House from other provinces will recognize why it is important, first, for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. They do not want to be recipients of equalization any more than any other province, but rather want to contribute to the financial well being of Canada as they have always wanted to do. So, we must look at this bill as having benefits in the first instance for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, but also as having great benefits for the residents of other provinces of Canada. I have never known major projects that can ever be isolated or insulated for benefits to only one province or region.

I am reminded of years ago when I was Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and it seems like years ago, in 1979. I was on a drilling rig in the Beaufort Sea. On the drill floor I met a fellow who must have been at least 135 pounds dripping wet. I asked him where he was from and he said: "From Newfoundland." I said: "Well, what are you doing here?" He answered: "Well, it is pretty obvious. I am drilling for oil."

I always thought of that when I heard people say that the people from Newfoundland would not get benefits out of this project because they do not have either the expertise or the experience. It was my understanding and my knowledge that they had been willing to go to all corners of the world to work on projects such as these. I asked him why he was there and he said: "So I can earn some money to go back home, build a house and get