

is not good for the people of Newfoundland. The Government of Canada serves the people of Newfoundland too—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chrétien:—and at times, much better. That is why I say that, if they want to talk with me, I am available. I am telling the people of Newfoundland that I do not want to play politics with them.

Mr. Crosbie: Oh, no!

Mr. McGrath: What are you doing now?

● (1440)

Mr. Chrétien: I just say that it will be developed in the best interests of the people of Newfoundland, and the fact that there will be no fight between the two Governments is a positive factor for investment. Of course we will have to talk with the provincial Government of Newfoundland because it has an interest in that. I hope it will come to the point of reaching an agreement. However, I am informed—I hope it is wrong—that Premier Peckford has already said that he will not negotiate with me, and you should check with him before asking the question.

GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question as well is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I wonder if the people across the way, who do not even have a policy on the offshore, or at least cannot make up their minds among themselves what their policy is, can be quiet. I ask this supplementary question on behalf of the people of Newfoundland—

Mr. Crosbie: Send a boy on a man's mission.

Mr. Tobin:—who are interested in hearing the Minister's answer, not like the Hon. Member for St. John's East who is interested in playing games.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Would the Hon. Member please ask his question?

Mr. Tobin: I do not know whether it is possible, Mr. Speaker, at this stage to negotiate an agreement, but assuming that a Government which cares about co-operation, not confrontation, comes to Newfoundland, can the Minister assure this House that it is still the intention of the Government of Canada to see that, the day an agreement is negotiated, the lion's share of revenues come to the Province of Newfoundland—

Mr. Crosbie: Sit down, Judas.

Mr. Tobin:—where those resources are located?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Mr. Crosbie: Judas told them.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government has always wanted to negotiate an agreement which will serve the best interests of the people of Newfoundland. We have always offered some sharing in revenue. I will have to see what will happen in the next days, because already I am informed that the Premier of Newfoundland said he will wait for another Government before he negotiates.

Mr. Crosbie: Good idea.

Mr. Chrétien: He might, Mr. Speaker, have to wait a hell of a long time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: We want Joe.

Mr. Chrétien: I have been able, Mr. Speaker, to reach agreements easily with Saskatchewan, with Alberta, and with Nova Scotia.

Mr. Crosbie: Where is John Turner when we need him?

Mr. Chrétien: How come I cannot make an agreement with the Government of Newfoundland?

Mr. Dick: You are supposed to answer questions.

Mr. Chrétien: Some questions should be asked that way. I had no problem making a deal with Premier Loughheed or Premier Devine, who are not Liberals, but who put their interest in solving problems before their political interests.

Some Hon. Members: More!

Some Hon. Members: Bring back Joe.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I assume the Minister of Energy is saying to himself: "If only the applause from my Liberal colleagues could be translated into votes at the convention. Will they love me in September like they do in May?" And I am sure the Minister wants to dismiss the gratuitous comments of the almost Minister of Youth—

Mr. Crosbie: The juvenile delinquent.

MINISTER'S APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the importance of the matter, which the Minister has always taken seriously, in light of the judgment rendered today by the Supreme Court, can the Minister give this House the assurance that he will enter into those negotiations acknowledging that past positions ought not necessarily to apply, and that any possible decision which does result can result from positions different from those previously taken by the federal Government, and must be of the greatest benefit to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador? Can the Minister give us the