

wrong. There is nothing scandalous about that. That is the way every civilized society has operated in the past. That is the way democratic society in this country will operate in the future. For example, the issue regarding offshore jurisdiction is before the courts at the present time. That is not at the initiative of the federal government. I remind hon. members there was a joint reference on the west coast between the B.C. government and the federal government. It was an agreed reference. The Supreme Court of Canada concluded that the federal Parliament had jurisdiction offshore on the west coast.

● (1630)

As far as the east coast is concerned, particularly Newfoundland, there is a case before the Federal Court of Appeal at the present time which has been initiated by the Seafarers' International Union during which the issue of jurisdiction is being debated, and I suspect that the court will be called upon to arbitrate in this respect and both the Newfoundland government and the national government will be *mise en cause*; they will be called in as intervenors in that particular case. We will see what will be the results of that particular litigation.

As far as we are concerned, we are not closing the door even now on pursuing negotiations between the governments concerned which would arrive at a satisfactory conclusion for all. Therefore, what we have put forward in this bill is a whole train of measures which will ensure that for the first time the people of Canada, through their national government, are going to be significant beneficiaries in a very direct way from the development that will take place in Canada lands. For the first time the Canadian people will have a 25 per cent interest in the development of Canada lands. For the first time there will be very tough rules whereby there will be requirement for procurement of goods and services and Canadians will be able to compete for the procurement of those goods, and Canadians will find themselves in the advantageous position of seeing their ability fully exploited and their manpower fully used in the 12 projects that will take place in the north.

Quite clearly there will be significant development in years to come. In the view of this government—and we have appreciated the representations made before the committee, as well as through letters from all kinds of groups in the country who are concerned about the people living in the regions—this will remain a very, very high priority and a very high source of concern.

I submit that we have debated long enough. This bill has been before Parliament since December. I have referred to the 73 meetings that took place before the committee and the 130 witnesses who have been heard. I submit the people of Canada expect the Parliament of Canada to act at a certain stage, and certainly on an issue as important as this one, on a bill that has so much significance for the future of those lands and the future of energy security in this country, I hope Parliament will make up its mind eventually and reach a conclusion.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, in the two minutes left to me, I merely want to stress the importance of the bill. This bill concerning Canada

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lands is the most important measure brought forward by the Canadian government in the energy field in many years. The bill covers the entire Arctic, all offshore mining rights. Those are the areas which in the coming decades will provide for Canada the energy security it needs.

We feel as a government that those resources belong to all Canadians and that we should see to it that all Canadians benefit from them. That is why we have provided in this bill, for example, that Canadians will be directly entitled to a 25 per cent interest in any future developments on Canada lands.

We have taken steps to ensure that Canadians will remain strongly competitive when they sell their assets or provide their services. We have taken steps to ensure that the economy and the Canadian workers throughout Canada may benefit from developments taking place on Canada lands.

We have also taken steps to ensure that the areas in the vicinity of those developments are the first to benefit from them. The Prime Minister has said so repeatedly, as I have. Discussions and negotiations are being pursued with the governments concerned with a view to making sure that developments on Canada lands will take place in an orderly way that will be of benefit not only to the regions concerned but generally to all Canadian citizens whom it is our duty to represent as parliamentarians, as members of the Parliament of Canada. In that sense, we reject the opinion that federal parliamentarians do not have the guts, the imagination nor the sense of responsibility needed, in short, the courage to make sure that those developments can take place for the good of all Canadians whom it is our duty to represent here.

[English]

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, in my remarks I will confine myself to the question of the offshore, which is the subject of this motion moved by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath). Let me say that the minister who has just sat down has really represented today the Liberal party in its true arrogance and its true scorn for anyone who is not of that one ilk, its true blindness and smugness.

This is not a unitary state, this is a confederation, and the Liberal Party of Canada epitomizes certain central Canadians in the kind of approach the minister indicated today, blindly and smugly believing that no one else in Canada should ever have their day in the sun. We are never to have our day in the sun in Newfoundland; we are never to have our day in the sun in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick. If there is a prospect in those areas of wealth from some offshore resource, that is not to be permitted to be ours. We are not to have that by right. We are only to have that—and I use the minister's language—if those people opposite, in their great wisdom, their great benevolence and great mercy, decide to give it to us.

The minister said in his speech that these resources belong to the people of Canada as a whole. These resources that are offshore belong to the people of Canada as a whole, as though