

Government Orders

the House that he expected this bill to be read the third time by the summer recess. We all know that for reasons I need not explain, the government deemed advisable not to introduce this bill in the House at that time.

As a last resort, I directed a question to the minister. I cannot elaborate on this, Mr. Speaker, but the House will remember that the fact the Meech Lake Accord was killed last June is one of the reasons why the government did not proceed with Bill C-44, because the Tory members of the Quebec caucus were determined to scuttle the bill. Since then, Mr. Speaker, we have not heard a peep out of the Quebec Tory members. They are completely out of it, out of the House. A while ago, I could see the Technology Minister trying to keep his Quebec troupes in line by telling them to vote in favour of this bill, a very good bill.

If this bill was really that good, Mr. Speaker, the morning papers would not be filled with paid advertising stating that the bill concerning Hibernia had to be amended to give Quebec its fair share. Outside the House, I heard some Tory members from Quebec insisting that the SNC had obtained a contract worth \$360 million— This is a contract awarded on the international market, Mr. Speaker. It is not a contract for Quebec firms, it was awarded on the international market.

We accept the fact that a module was guaranteed to Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, but we ask that the other four modules be offered on the domestic market first. If our domestic market is unwilling or unable to meet the challenge, this contract should then be offered on the foreign market. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, we know from opinion polls that the credibility of this government is being seriously questioned, but we find it hard to believe that the official opposition should be going along. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who signed this agreement said the other day in the House that he was not prepared to renegotiate it once more. Yesterday, during the Question Period, he even went so far as saying that it would be stupid, childish and that he would not reopen the negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians are being railroaded, pure and simple. Although the Canadian government is going to invest not less than \$2.7 billion in this project,

Canadians are not even sure to benefit from the spinoffs. That is incredible, but true, Mr. Speaker, especially in view of the fact that there was no Persian Gulf crisis at the time it was negotiated. And who says that the price of oil will not increase to \$50 or \$60 a barrel. We know that the price is currently between \$38 and \$48 a barrel. On the other hand, under the terms of the agreement, if the price should fall below \$25 a barrel, the government would have to make up the difference. If the price exceeds \$25 to the barrel, the U.S. oil companies like Mobil Oil will reap handsome benefits on the market.

Mr. Speaker, Newfoundland claims to have been ripped off in the Churchill Falls project. The whole affair has even been referred to the Supreme Court where it was decided that the agreement signed by Quebec and Newfoundland was quite legitimate. Now, not only Newfoundland is being had with this agreement but the whole country. And that is why we became in this House the Official Opposition because the Official Opposition is hands in hands with the Government and I bet the NDP will in the end vote for the bill. After winning Ontario, it now has an eye on the Maritimes. We want to make sure that the superior interests of Quebec are protected in this House, but at the same time, we wish to protect the interests of Canada since we are still part of the Constitution as it now stands.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources stated a few days ago that the Hibernia oil will benefit mostly American interests. Considering the accrued debt and the deficits we are talking about, can we, again, make such an effort and for whom? For our American neighbours? I would not want to enter into the free trade debate which has been going on for the last two years. But as far as Hibernia is concerned, I hope that the government will come to realize, the next few minutes, that it is making a blatant mistake and it is all the more true since the Senate is shut down, Mr. Speaker. And because of whom? The Liberals. So, why steamroll a bill while the Senate is shut down? Would it not be because the Conservative Government wants to pass this bill now in order to force the liberals to re-open the Senate? It is incredible, inconceivable, I would say diabolical to go to such an extent to pass that kind of legislation!