

landers could eat promises they would all weigh 400 pounds. Those two Governments approved a Bill to be introduced in this Chamber which says that any oil from the offshore of Newfoundland must first be used to fulfil any contracts which the drilling companies have. You know, Mr. Speaker, who those drilling companies would be.

When we review the record we see that the oil companies and the Governments were saying that it was necessary to receive \$40 per barrel in order to exploit Hibernia. A year went by and then they said they really needed \$35 a barrel. Approximately a year and a half ago the break-even price decreased to \$28 a barrel. It later decreased to \$24 a barrel, and the other day the break-even price went down to \$24 per barrel. You and I know, Mr. Speaker, where the truth perhaps lies.

The Government of Newfoundland said that it was a good idea to discontinue the PIP grants because the Conservative Government would have a better scheme when it assumed office. The PC Party handbook said that there would be more money through the taxation system and incentives built into it. When the new Atlantic Accord was presented and the new Bill on the offshore was introduced in this Chamber, the Premier of Newfoundland said it was a bright new day for Newfoundlanders. If you are a Tory Premier, Prime Minister, or cabinet Minister, you must never disagree publicly.

Now, of course, all Newfoundlanders know the truth. They have read it in the newspapers, seen it on television and heard it on the radio. They have been told there is to be no drilling. The great Tory Government promised the oil companies that it would not renege on its commitment. The oil companies believed they had a commitment for a drilling program from 1982 to 1987.

● (1550)

We now see the aftermath of the great promises that were made for the Newfoundlanders who actually believed what the Government was saying. I do not fault them for that. If you were to sit down in front of a television set and watch the Prime Minister campaign and watch him on other occasions, you would just have to believe what the man was saying.

Mr. Tobin: Used to believe.

Mr. Baker: You would have to believe what the Premier of Newfoundland was saying. He was elected at least three times on the same issue of offshore oil, drilling and jobs. Yet we knew, and we dare not object, that the policy was completely misplaced. We knew that Newfoundland, for always and a day, exports all of its raw materials.

So what is new about this Bill before the House not allowing any development in Newfoundland? We send 80 per cent of our fish to the U.S. in a frozen state to be thawed out so as to create jobs. We have always done that. We send away most of our minerals and forests and other raw materials. It is the same old story, and Newfoundlanders today are grabbing after jobs which pay \$200 a week. Then their Governments turn around and agree to do away with the only incentive to drilling

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for oil in the offshore. Newfoundlanders watch their Governments sign an agreement which says there will be no industrial development for all time on everything on the continental shelf around their province. They watched the champagne celebrations of their Governments as they clink glasses and try to convince everyone it was a great deal.

We are here to tell you today, Mr. Speaker, that it was not a great deal. We are here to tell you that this Bill is not a great deal. We are here to tell you that the policy of the Government as it relates to this Bill and its regulations is not such a great deal at all. Newfoundlanders are thinking about something else. I will tell you what they are thinking about. They are thinking about the day when they will have the opportunity to vote out that Tory Government in Newfoundland, and the day, hopefully soon, when they can also vote out this federal Tory Government.

I notice you are giving an indication that I have only one minute left. I suppose Members of this House from Newfoundland will go back to their offices in a few minutes, sit down and start working on unemployment insurance appeals for the weekend.

Mr. Holtmann: Go to the Press Club, more likely.

Mr. Baker: The Hon. Member over there does not really understand what I am talking about because he does not represent the ridings we represent. Perhaps when someone phones him about a welfare problem, he says, no, phone the provincial Government, that is their responsibility. The fact of the matter is, as the Hon. Member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe knows, we are the ones who have to go before the umpires and federal judges on unemployment insurance appeals. The people concerned cannot afford to pay for lawyers and legal aid will not pay for it. We are the ones who get phone calls every single day from someone who got only nine stamps. A lot of Members would not know what nine stamps are. We know.

Mr. Henderson: Nine stamps, nine letters.

Mr. Baker: They think it is nine letters. It is, of course, unemployment insurance stamps, as you would know, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McDermid: This is a very long minute.

Mr. Baker: The bottom line is that this Government has betrayed the offshore workers of Newfoundland and other parts of Canada. The Government has also betrayed the hopes, wishes and dreams of Newfoundlanders on offshore oil for a long time to come.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, as a colleague of the Hon. Member who just spoken and a fellow citizen of Newfoundland, I have never heard—

Mr. McDermid: A mutual admiration society.