

Government orders

sion, making it a truly Canadian project, in the best spirit of co-operation and teamwork.

Let us pool our knowledge, our skills, and our determinations and let us show the world that we, as Canadians, are a proud people and that we are the best when we work to attain the same goal.

Hibernia offers us a great challenge. It is up to us to make sure that this challenge will be met by us by voting for Bill C-44 as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, let's overcome our fears! Let us give Quebecers the opportunity to work with their fellow citizens from the Maritimes and Newfoundland in the development of the Hibernia project.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

[English]

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon unfortunately having to tailor my remarks somewhat from what I had intended, given the weak-kneed, lily-livered, pusillanimous, nonsensical sub-amendment proposed by the member of the Liberal Party. Anyone who has access to the text can see that it takes what was a perfectly reasonable Canada-first Bloc Quebecois amendment and turns it into a wishy-washy, mushy sort of pap of the kind that, quite frankly, Madam Speaker, Canadians have come to expect of the Liberal Party.

Before moving into the content of these motions, I would like to say something for the benefit of those unilingual anglophone Canadians watching at home who are wondering what all the fireworks are about. There are many of them in my riding, Madam Speaker. I would like to go into just a bit of what has been said here.

This is all about an amendment to Bill C-44, the bill which authorizes the expenditure of public money in Hibernia and other things. It is an amendment to clause 3 of the bill which is on page 4. Oddly, this is all being done strictly in the French language. It is only the French version of the bill which the Bloc Quebecois amendment sought to amend. The French version currently reads that the minister has the authority to do this, that and the other, and eventually gets to subsection (f) "and such other measures as the minister may judge appropriate or suitable". To this, the Bloc Quebecois, in the person of the hon. member for Richelieu, seconded by the hon.

member for Shefford, proposed an amendment that would add to it after the "suitable" or "appropriate"—

[Translation]

"—notamment l'assurance que les appels d'offres sur les cinq super modules de la plate-forme soient, dans un premier temps, réservés aux seules entreprises canadiennes".

[English]

It means basically that the minister may do such other things, especially to guarantee that invitations to tender for the five platforms will be initially restricted to Canadian firms.

The Liberal member has now proposed that the words, which roughly in English are "will be initially restricted to Canadian firms", be replaced with words that basically say that the proposal must provide for maximum Canadian content consistent with not harming the project. That, at least, is how I, in my own admittedly imperfect fashion, come to translate all of these things.

Obviously you can see the difference between requiring that the bids be restricted to Canadians in the first instance on the one hand and seeking maximum Canadian content on the other. It is this difference which forms the reason why we in the New Democratic Party will be voting against the Liberal subamendment and for the Bloc Quebecois amendment. Unfortunately, we will be doing so fully in the knowledge that the Bloc Quebecois amendment, as presented, flies in the face of the free trade agreement.

There are several provisions in the free trade agreement, entered into almost two years ago now, that are quite pertinent here. I would like to note a few. The first article I will quote is from the version of the agreement published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part III, Chapter 65, assented to December 30, 1988. I quote from page 2118 of that Gazette, the following, article 105, National Treatment: "Each Party shall, to the extent provided in this Agreement, accord national treatment with respect to investment and to trade in goods and services".

We come to chapter 14 dealing with services, article 1402, sub (1): "—each Party shall accord to persons of the other party treatment no less favourable than that accorded in like circumstances to its persons with respect to the measures covered by this Chapter". This is the chapter which covers services. Among those services covered by this chapter, it notes in annex 1408 on page 2246 the following: mining services, including oil and gas field services, construction services, including building,