

Adjournment Debate

those in the Province of Newfoundland who may be concerned about Clause 54.

First, I should say that everyone in the House is very proud of the manner in which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) and the Government of Canada handled the formalization of the Atlantic Accord. It is a fine example of consultative federalism. We believe that the Accord establishes Newfoundlanders as economic equals within confederation, while at the same time it works toward other national goals. The agreement will generate tens of thousands of person-years of employment in the Province and it will transfer Newfoundland's status from a have-not province to a have province. That is very important.

I must say—not denigrating any other parts of this great country—that I always look forward with great expectation when I go to “The Rock”, because of the hospitality, warmth, generosity and the genuine feeling of friendship I receive from the people who live there.

The Accord is intended to achieve a number of objectives. It will ensure that development optimizes the social and economic benefits to Canada, particularly Newfoundland. It provides for revenue-sharing between Governments on the same basis as if the resources were on provincial land. I think the Hon. Member would agree with that. It will constitute a stable and fair regime for industry to get on with the job, and it establishes a sound and enduring management regime which recognizes the equality of both Governments as managers and stewards of the resource. That is something the former administration was not prepared to do.

The federal Government has no desire to enforce any measure that would minimize economic benefits flowing from the

Accord. The Hon. Member has voiced his concern over Clause 54, which he perceives as being discriminatory. He claims that the Clause would prevent an industrial refiner in Newfoundland from receiving Hibernia oil because the Province's feedstock requirements for new facilities must be “excess to feedstock required to meet the demand of presently existing industrial capacity in eastern Canada”. He regards this to be a limitation and, therefore, a sell-out. I respectfully say to the Hon. Member that this is a misrepresentation of Clause 54.

As with the entire Atlantic Accord, this provision places Newfoundland on at least an equal footing with other provinces of this nation which are blessed with a rich supply of natural resources. Newfoundland will have full access to Hibernia output on commercial terms under any circumstances. In fact, the language of Clause 54 goes further to ensure Newfoundland this access, thereby providing a right of first refusal to the Province for the off-shore supplies. Surely, Members opposite would not advocate that the central Government should allocate crude supplies among regions. This agreement makes it clear that buyers, regardless of location, will bid on commercial terms for existing supplies.

Let me reiterate that Clause 54 does not place a limit on Newfoundland's present or future access to off-shore production. The Newfoundland Minister of Energy supports his view and recently stated that Clause 54 does not rule out the development—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 6.20 p.m.