

*Government Orders*

Quebec who are of the same party, who share the same ideas, but at the same time he wants to leave the impression he still represents Canadians. He says he was elected as a representative of all Canadiens, not only Quebecers but Canadians who live in Quebec and in all the other provinces. So, Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that member insists on introducing procedural points into the debate. Because, if my memory serves me well, that same member along with some of his colleagues, used to be part of the gouvernement's caucus, a few months ago. And at that time in this Parliament the guillotine was used 13 times to bring an end to the discussion of some on bills.

**Mr. Lewis:** Incredible!

**Mr. Volpe:** The Minister says it is incredible and so it is! And more incredible still, Mr. Speaker, while we are discussing a bill which should be a matter of interest to all Canadians, we hear from a member who, again, was a member of the government's caucus a few months ago, when the object of this bill was developed.

So, the honourable member and his independent colleagues from Quebec, who previously agreed with this bill, now say: "No, things have changed." So, what are they saying now: "No. The bill we agreed on before now must be changed."

[*English*]

I do not think we can continue to debate procedures and the discussion of closure when what we should be talking about is the substance of this bill. It has been clear through some of the debates we have heard over the course of the afternoon, brief though they have been, that the NDP to my left and the bloc of independents from Quebec are not in favour of this bill. They cannot hide that kind of attitude.

We cannot talk about procedures or amendments in the hope of trying to confuse the viewing public. Canadians at large, that they are against this bill. I ask myself why? It can only be because they do not want to look at the way that we are thinking about diversifying the economy of our regions. This is particularly relevant to Newfoundland.

If it is the intention of hon. members to my left to say out in the open that they do not want to diversify the

economy of Newfoundland, let them stand up and so say. That is not what we should be doing. I would have thought that if they were interested in a meaningful debate on substance they would have asked some significant questions. For example, is this Hibernia project economically viable and capable of making appropriate returns for Newfoundland? I would have been interested in hearing that; so, I dare say, would all Newfoundlanders.

Could federal money, for example, be used more effectively for creation of other types of industries in Newfoundland? Let me hear them say that. We have not heard any of that at all. What are we talking about when we are talking about where we are putting our moneys—

**An hon. member:** Why are you talking as if you don't know anything?

**Mr. Volpe:** We have not heard anything about how to best allocate federal moneys. We have not heard any of that from my colleagues to the left. In fact when my colleague from Quebec says he is here to defend the interests of Quebec, I did not hear him mention that there are many estimates that talk about \$1.5 billion. That is spelled with a *b*. In French it is *milliards*. *Encore une fois*, \$1.5 billion in contracts to the province of Quebec.

• (1840)

[*Translation*]

Who knows who stands for Quebec's interests! One must understand that 1.5 billion \$ will be spent in Quebec.

[*English*]

I do not know why they would be against that. I am not sure that anybody else here would have been against it. Quite frankly, there is \$1.5 billion being spent in Quebec and only \$770 million expected to be spent in Newfoundland. I would have expected my colleagues from Newfoundland to be upset about that but they are not. They must be good Canadians, great Canadians.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Volpe:** I see my colleagues to my left are really interested in hearing some of the other facts that they have ignored all the way along. Quite frankly one needs to note that Hibernia is expected to account for 12 per