

Oral Questions

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the Hon. Member has suggested, I was not criticizing any court action. I was simply criticizing the policy and position of the former Liberal Government which would not acknowledge the fact that the province had any share or potential ownership in the resources.

Mr. Tobin: Will you acknowledge you do not have an agreement? Will you acknowledge that?

Mr. Mazankowski: It was in fact a Liberal policy that was militating against the interests of Newfoundland. That was clearly the case.

What we have here is a definitive Statement of Principles which has been agreed to—

Ms. Copps: Tories with principles?

Mr. Mazankowski:—by the parties; the consortium, the federal Government, and the Government of the Province of Newfoundland. I am sure, as the Government of Canada negotiated the Atlantic Accord with the Government of Newfoundland, as the Government of Canada negotiated the Western Accord with the western provinces, this policy will be implemented on the basis of that, and it is a day on which all Canadians should herald a very major development based on a very definitive and practical policy.

TERMS OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I also want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister about this so-called Statement of Principles which in fact has to be the most unprincipled statement ever put forward because the player with the least gives the most. The companies get billions of dollars and an ironclad guarantee. The Government of Canada gets its duties and its taxes all paid. Yet Newfoundland, little Newfoundland with the highest unemployment rate in Canada, is asked to give up its taxes and to lower its corporate tax and to pay \$100 million on top of that. Why is it that the player with the least has to give the most? And isn't this in fact the biggest rip-off since Churchill Falls?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I find the Hon. Member's rationale rather amusing because, under the Liberal policy, the Government and the people of Newfoundland would have gotten nothing, absolutely nothing.

Mr. Rompkey: One hundred per cent of royalties. That was guaranteed.

Mr. Mazankowski: Absolutely nothing. He asks what Newfoundlanders are going to get. Well, 47,000 person-years for Canada and almost 35,000 person-years for Newfoundland. In terms of the macro economic impact of Hibernia for Newfoundland, it will be \$11.6 billion in 1987 dollars. In terms

of incremental employment, it will be 94,350 person-years of employment. If that isn't good for Newfoundland, I don't know what is.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, first of all, the Liberal offer was 100 per cent of royalties to Newfoundland. That was the Liberal offer. We have been offered jobs before. Under Churchill Falls we sold our birthright for a few menial jobs and we are not doing it again.

An Hon. Member: Who did it?

An Hon. Member: Joey Smallwood.

Mr. Rompkey: On this agreement, which comes to conclusion on April Fool's Day, I say to the Deputy Prime Minister, fool us once, shame on you; fool us twice, shame on us. We are not going to be fooled again, and I ask if this is not simply the greatest rip-off since Churchill Falls.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we have a clear picture of where the Liberal Party now stands. It is against the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. We saw that demonstrated today. It is against Hibernia. It is against Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Tobin: We are against lies, l-i-e-s.

Mr. Mazankowski: And if what they are saying is they want—

Mr. Tobin: That's what we are against. You wouldn't know that if it jumped up and bit you.

Mr. Mazankowski: If the Hon. members from Newfoundland and Labrador are suggesting that they are going to tear up this deal, well, I guess that will be their position. Let them suffer the consequences.

Mr. Rompkey: We will offer the old deal. We will offer our deal.

REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE PROJECT WILL PROCEED

Mr. Jack Harris (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, while the people of Newfoundland and Labrador would welcome economic activity if it happens as a result of this Hibernia announcement today, I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister, in view of the fact that the Statement of Principles signed does not create legally enforceable rights, is not binding on any of the parties unless there is a real agreement reached by March of 1989, what guarantee is there that this is not just a pre-election scheme by both the Canadian Government and the Newfoundland Government? What guarantee is there that this project is going to go ahead at all?