

Oral Questions

changes in the back-in provisions, why not? What deal is the Government going to give to the Province of Nova Scotia? What compensation is it going to give to the people of Nova Scotia for this change?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the line of questioning rather surprises me in view of the fact that the back-in provisions were unilaterally established by the Liberal administration without a word to Nova Scotia, or Alberta, or to any other province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CANADIAN OWNERSHIP OBJECTIVE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): May I remind the Minister that if this change is made without the consent of the Province of Nova Scotia, then what we have here is a unilateral abrogation of the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore oil and gas agreement. I would like to say to the Minister that the Prime Minister has said in his statement that the National Energy Program failed in its objective of Canadianization, which is not correct, because—

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member have a supplementary question?

Mr. MacLellan: I would like to ask the Minister how can it be said that the objective of 50 per cent Canadian ownership has not been achieved, when we have not reached 1990? We are ahead of schedule. If the Government is going to open the doors, the floodgates of Canada, to non-Canadians, how will we ever achieve this Canadianization?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, no.

HIBERNIA OILFIELD DEVELOPMENT

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister will know that a key element of Newfoundland's proposal for the development of Hibernia was catch-up for that province, and a key way of doing this was the back-in provision. Can the Minister tell us if, during her recent visit to Newfoundland, she discussed the elimination of the back-in provision with the Government of Newfoundland? And can she tell us if it agreed to that?

● (1420)

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member chooses to ignore the fact that the back-in, as brought in by the Liberal Government, was straight confiscation. That is a kind of policy which has never been considered a Canadian policy. In view of the Atlantic accord, presently being negotiated in detail with the Government of Newfoundland, we are in fact giving Newfoundland a great deal of the management of the offshore and the same kind of revenue regime that other provinces got.

They do not need the back-in. I mean, if you give it all to them, they do not need the back-in.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH NEWFOUNDLAND

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, the back-in was certainly not unilateral. As a matter of fact Premier Peckford asked not only for 25 per cent back-in, but for 40 per cent back-in. How can the Minister square doing away with this key element of Newfoundland policy with the fact she is negotiating a deal in the best interests of Newfoundland? How can she have any credibility now in the province in negotiating that deal?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, may I point out that the Liberal Government never made any deal with Newfoundland at all, on the back-in or anything else. They had no deal at all with Newfoundland. I can only point out that Premier Peckford signed the agreement in principle, which was also signed by the then Leader of the Opposition, and his Government is glad to sit at the negotiating table with us these very weeks to negotiate a deal which will be the most important thing that ever happened to Newfoundland since it joined Confederation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

ANNOUNCED ABOLITION—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the Prime Minister back. He took his—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gauthier: Sing "Danny Boy".

Mr. Axworthy: How about the "Star Spangled Banner"?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Broadbent: The Prime Minister took his puff'n' stuff routine to the New York investment community. In fact—

Mr. Axworthy: He bought the Brooklyn Bridge.

Mr. Broadbent: —he welcomed the American investors to come up here and drink Canada dry. More than that, he offered to hold the glass for them.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister this. One of the purposes of FIRA has been to ensure successfully that the companies it monitored produced more jobs in Canada and