

—these arrangements will certainly involve important regulatory, legislative and, indeed, constitutional changes before everything is in place.

They did not say anything about the constitution during the election campaign, Mr. Speaker. We did. We were honest enough to state it but the Tories did not. Further on in the letter we find that the little club that is going to straighten this matter up is getting bigger. The letter goes on to say:

—I am sending a copy of this letter to all the premiers because all are interested in the matter to some degree and will, in due time, have to deal with it in constitutional discussions.

That is what we were honest enough to say all along, Mr. Speaker, and I welcome the opportunity to put it on the record of this House. That is the farce that the Conservative party tried to perpetrate on the people of Newfoundland during the last election campaign. I think it is shameful, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tobin:** I should like to direct my remarks for a moment to the perennial third party in the House of Commons, the New Democratic Party. I see that only one member is present, which is not surprising. The elected members of that party participated in what was beyond a shadow of a doubt the greatest political hypocrisy of our time. Those are strong words, Mr. Speaker, but let me tell you why I use them. I am not surprised that the New Democratic Party is upset about the limitation imposed on this debate. Indeed, I would not be surprised if they could find a way to disagree with the Lord himself if he sat on this side of the House. This is the party that refused, again and again as a party, to take a position during the referendum campaign.

**An hon. Member:** That is not true.

**Mr. Tobin:** This is the party which, for purely political and partisan purposes, refused to stand up and be counted for Canada. Shame, Mr. Speaker—shame!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tobin:** I find it at the very worst dishonest, and at the very best cowardly, for any Canadian to seek election to represent Canadians in this Parliament and then, when the time comes, to refuse to stand up and be counted and to defend Canada.

**Mr. Miller:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that this is the hon. member's maiden speech but nevertheless he is totally misrepresenting the position of the New Democratic Party during the referendum in Quebec.

**An hon. Member:** Boo!

**Mr. Miller:** Our party leader attended at least two meetings in the province of Quebec outlining our position on the referendum.

**An hon. Member:** That is not a point of order.

**Mr. Miller:** I would question, Mr. Speaker, your permitting the hon. member to use that kind of false—

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**Some hon. Members:** Order, order.

**Mr. Miller:**—comment, regardless whether it is his maiden speech or not.

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. The hon. member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) takes a certain risk when he uses words like "dishonesty". It tends to incur the distress of other members. On the other hand, I believe it has been ruled in this House that the use of that expression is not necessarily unparliamentary. It is, however, a risk he takes.

I might point out to the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller) that unfortunately the use of a point of order is not an opportunity to enter into debate with the hon. member who has the floor. We will continue with the remarks of the hon. member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin).

**Mr. Tobin:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member opposite suggested that I was misrepresenting the position of the NDP during the Quebec referendum. I would make it very clear to him, as it is clear to everybody else, that they did not have a position, so how could I misrepresent it?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tobin:** I am convinced that all Canadians, whether they voted Liberal, Conservative or even NDP in the last election, viewed the Quebec referendum result not only as a victory for Quebec but for all Canada. The NDP would be wise to recognize that even those who supported them in the last election can have nothing now but contempt for that party's non-stand during the referendum campaign. Let the non-stand taken by the New Democratic Party be an example to Canadians of the shallowness of ideas and integrity of that party.

While I am on the subject, Mr. Speaker, let me direct my comments for a moment to hon. members opposite in the Conservative party, particularly to the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. While there is a fundamental difference between his views and mine on economic matters, and while we would no doubt differ on how this country should evolve, I am sure my colleagues on this side join me in applauding the Leader of the Opposition for his courage in stating in a clear, concise and loud manner his and his party's support for the No side during the referendum campaign.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tobin:** I suggest the Leader of the New Democratic Party could well take a lesson from the Leader of the Opposition, and indeed should take daily lessons from the Leader of the Government, the right hon. Prime Minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tobin:** I support Bill C-30, Mr. Speaker. Some 12 years ago at the age of 13 I adopted the habit—old man that I am—of listening to and watching every newscast I could. I used to