

of this country what the Conservative party is planning to do with their money.

The people of Canada do not agree with the Conservative Party of Canada. That is very obvious with recent polling results and recent election results and when they try to privatize Petro-Canada, there will be another catalyst, another warning gong to the Conservative party across the way. Come the election campaign in 1992-93 the Conservative Party will go down to a very resounding defeat.

It is short-sighted to embark on some of these policies. It is very short-sighted. We are running out of resources in this country. Under the free trade agreement we will be exporting more and more gas and oil to the United States, and it seems to me very unwise that they have moved to privatize Petro-Canada. I raise that at this time in the Hibernia debate because this is only part of the energy policy of the Conservative Party. What they have done here is they have signed a sweetheart deal that will benefit in the main some of their wealthy friends in the oil industry. I just wonder whether it will be of great benefit to the people of Newfoundland. How many jobs will this create in Newfoundland? How many long-term jobs in Newfoundland will this create? I just wonder. I am really curious about that and I am sure you are too, Mr. Speaker.

• (1740)

I see many of these megaprojects that cost millions of dollars for the creation of one good long-term job, millions and millions of dollars. If it would create a lot of jobs for unionized workers, I would be very happy and very surprised, but I am sure that will not be the case.

When we discuss these amendments, I hope the Conservative Party across the way will look very seriously at amendments that we are proposing and we are moving which will demand more accountability. I hope that they will also come to their senses and not table a proposal in this House in a few days to privatize Petro-Canada because if they do that, that will just put a few more nails in their coffin.

I am sure you remember, Mr. Speaker, before I sit down, back in 1979 when the then Prime Minister Joe Clark decided to privatize Petro-Canada. That was one of the reasons why the people of this country defeated the Conservative Party with a resounding vote on Febru-

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ary 18, 1980. I know the minister across the way, the Minister of Energy, agrees—I can see him from here shaking his head in agreement—because he was part of that government and he was defeated because of the insensitivity of that party across the way. Increasing oil prices by 18 cents a gallon, do you remember that, increasing oil prices when John Crosbie, the then Minister of Finance, said that we needed this short-term pain for long-term gain. Then the agenda was to privatize Petro-Canada and give more and more breaks. It just shows the Liberals—

An hon. member: Order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I know there are times when we are not really relevant to what the motions are but when you start getting a little off that, I think that I should intervene. I think the hon. member's time has expired in any event. I will recognize the hon. member for Richelieu.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, the Hibernia project has been around for quite some time. From the outset a number of Canadian companies, including companies from Quebec, had shown considerable interest and in fact had high hopes for this project. As you know, a consortium headed by Marine Industries had been formed, to maximize Canadian content. Companies in Montreal, Toronto and the Atlantic Provinces established a consortium to include companies specialized in platforms and ensure there would be more spin-offs for Canadian industry.

Of course, the new Hibernia project raises a lot of questions, especially for Quebec workers at Lauzon and MIL-Tracy. First of all, one unit, one part of the contract is being built directly in one province, without tenders and without the assurance that local expertise is available to carry out the contract at the best possible price.

The second aspect, which may come as somewhat of a shock and surprise to Canadians and Quebecers, is that federal funding available from the so-called Eastern Canada energy development fund is being used to build infrastructures and set up companies that will compete with existing Canadian companies. This is a flagrant denial of the principles of free enterprise and the principles of a Conservative Party that has always stood for private enterprise and keeping government interven-