

The Address—Mr. Tobin

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: I become a little upset with the opportunistic type of comments and with the politicians in this chamber who want to raise falsely the expectations of Canadians and who carry the proverbial stick with the perpetual carrot dangling from the end of it. The Quebec referendum is the best example. I do not know how you can live with yourselves.

An hon. Member: It is sad.

Mr. Tobin: It really is sad. We in Newfoundland expect the lion's share of Newfoundland's offshore development, but in terms of strengthening our economy and our social fabric, we also look forward to sharing with the rest of the country.

One of the things about which we are concerned is what we hear more and more every day from the provinces, and this is why the constitution must be repatriated. For example, in my province we hear that only Newfoundlanders will work in Newfoundland, says Brian Peckford; and only Nova Scotians will work in Nova Scotia, says John Buchanan. Only Newfoundlanders will catch fish in Newfoundland waters, says Brian Peckford; and only Nova Scotians will catch fish in Nova Scotia waters, says John Buchanan. And René says the same about Quebec. All across the country we have premiers who claim to be representing the best interests of their people, who claim to reflect the aspirations and concerns of their people, who, I think, are really divorced from the concerns and aspirations of their people.

We talk now about an oil pricing agreement, and whether or not we will go to world prices, which Alberta would desire. I am sure we are going to reach a reasonable compromise in these oil pricing talks, because I can tell the House now that Newfoundlanders are good Canadians and Newfoundlanders look forward to sharing the potential of our shores with all Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: But, as we say at home, what is sauce for the goose had better be sauce for the gander. I would be disheartened and surprised, shocked in fact, if we saw an oil pricing agreement with Alberta that was not in the best interests of all Canadians. Because we are going to go to Newfoundland very soon, all of us, to tell Newfoundlanders: "Let us have a sharing of resources to the benefit of all Canadians". I hope we will practice very soon what we shall be preaching in the months and years ahead.

Earlier I mentioned another area on which I am pleased to hear our government is taking action. We have singled it out in the throne speech. It is the question of the free movement of goods and people across borders, an issue about which many of us in Atlantic Canada are concerned. After a few months here I have confidence that this principle is one that this government will do no less than enforce in this country.

With regard to Petro-Canada, I have to get a poke in there. Do hon. members know that Petro-Canada is a 25 per cent owner of the Hibernia oil development off the shores of

Newfoundland? We have heard members opposite talking about the Liberals' lack of concern for Canadians. The same members opposite would like to take credit for Petro-Canada. In the Speech from the Throne we indicated that we would strengthen Petro-Canada. We have done that with \$80 million. It is a national oil company whose concern is the Canadian people.

• (1610)

I said that I would be short, but as a rookie member of Parliament I should like to say simply that I have sat in the House and have not said a great deal. I am a cynic by nature, but by sitting on this side of the House I have found men, particularly in cabinet, who are men of principle and integrity. They have lived up to the thrust, ideas and convictions put forward in the throne speech debate. I look forward to a very successful four years, five years, ten years, or 15 years on this side of the House.

Mr. Knowles: You are not staying very long, are you?

Mr. Tobin: I would only say one other thing. Perhaps one could call it naive, but as a rookie politician I was surprised, on matters of national importance and concern regarding the energy pricing agreement and the referendum, at the amount of politics.

Like everyone else, I put the best possible face on the policies of my party; that is fair. But there really comes a time when we must put our partisan considerations aside. I say this is one of those times in Canada. Literally the country is being torn apart at the seams. We fail to realize it is not the people of Canada who participate in that tug-of-war at all. The regional and national politicians, with what could sometimes be called more ego at interest than people, make true or false statements which are self-serving. They present their own cases and enhance their own chances at re-election. If anything, that kind of rhetoric by politicians today, at a crucial time in our history, causes me to wonder about the quality of people who are elected and sit as top dogs in some posts in this country. It causes me to wonder if they have the ability to recognize that this is a time of crisis in Canada.

As a young member of Parliament and one who is perhaps naive, thank God, I should like to leave a short message on behalf of the average Joe who sent me here. I address this message without being partisan, not only to my own party but to the other side of the House, particularly the corner of the House. It is time to stop playing games, it really is.

Having said those few words—and I am sure they will mean a lot back home—I take my seat.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!