

Government orders

The fourth point I want to raise, as my colleagues from the Bloc Québécois and from the NDP did earlier, is this: What will be the financial benefits for the rest of Canada? Will Quebec only send a little sand or a little technology or will other provinces send a little manpower? Are those the benefits we are looking for? I surely don't. I want real jobs, permanent jobs across Canada and jobs in the high technology sector. Why not make sure that we are not simply going to pump oil for the Americans? Why not refine that oil somewhat to sell gasoline and possess another technology?

I can tell you about the situation in eastern Montreal. A number of refineries closed down, putting hundreds of workers out of work in the area. Why introduce a bill that does not attend to that problem? I find that this project does not create many spin-offs, not to mention spin-offs in the sense that refineries could treat oil produced at Hibernia. I find that senseless, unacceptable.

Finally, I want to say that we have a problem even if all guarantees have been— The government has accepted the demands, which means that the Canadian companies will benefit the most from this Hibernia project.

The Free Trade Agreement is causing us serious problems. This is what I want to tell you about my colleagues from the Bloc Québécois and the Conservative Party who are responsible for the present situation in which we can't even force Americans or whoever will obtain the contracts to hire Canadians. Moreover, Americans will say that it goes against free trade. Who signed this treaty?

An hon. member: Not us!

Mr. Edmonston: What government? I'm sorry. But I can tell you, my colleagues from the Bloc Québécois, not now that they are in that group, but when they were members of the Conservative government—

An hon. member: Not us!

Mr. Edmonston: My NDP colleague, the member for Alberta, already said that the members of the Bloc Québécois voted for free trade when they were members of the Conservative government. And it is because of free trade that we can't do anything to improve the situation.

I support my colleagues of the Bloc Québécois, but I deplore that many of them are responsible for the situation in which we find ourselves today. With the best intentions in the world, there is not much we can do because, after all, they helped the government to pass the Free Trade Agreement.

So I find it sad that, today, when he wants to defend the interests of Quebec and of Canada— because I heard my Liberal colleague saying gladly that since the Bloc Québécois wanted all Canada to receive the most financial spin-offs from the project, it means that they are Canadian and in favour of the status quo— I am not prepared to say that—

Mr. Lapierre: For the time being.

Mr. Edmonston:—for the time being. But I would like to say that there is a contradiction at the moment. We want to defend the interests of Quebecers, but we have created a sad situation in the sense that we cannot defend those interests with the Hibernia project, because the free trade treaty keeps us from doing it.

An hon. member: It is not true.

Mr. Edmonston: Now, in conclusion, Madam Speaker, I think it is necessary to have projects like Hibernia and projects elsewhere in Canada. I am not necessarily against the people of Newfoundland or people from elsewhere in Canada. However, this legislation is not fair, neither for Quebec nor for the rest of Canada. And I think particularly, and this is the most disastrous point in this bill, that it is the reason why I support the amendment of my colleagues from the Bloc Québécois. And I am extremely sorry to see that my colleagues from the Liberal Party could move an amendment to the amendment which is so opportunist that it is utter nonsense.

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise to—

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Shefford has a point of order.

Mr. Lapierre: Since I raised a point of order before the member for Laval-East spoke, I want to introduce the following motion:

That the member for Rosemont be now heard.