

*Government Orders*

capacity. We have a scientific capability. We have the ability to work with concrete and to work with steel. As I said in this House the other day, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians participated in the largest construction projects in North America and continue to be called upon first for their skills, their dedication, and their productivity.

Companies in Newfoundland and Labrador that do not have the capacity, that have not developed the capacity themselves over the last number of years, have had enough sense to go out and enter into joint ventures. With whom have they entered into joint ventures? Let me give you a little example, Mr. Speaker.

Last week after the announcement of the project agreement, there were two contracts awarded. One contract was worth \$1.3 billion and that is for the project that my hon. friend, the hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception, talks about. That is a Newfoundland-led project, but in recognition that certain skills exist in Newfoundland and that we have certain capabilities but there are others that we need, a consortium was put together. Some 59 per cent of that consortium is Quebec based companies. There was another contract awarded worth somewhat over \$300 million, and 85 per cent of the participation in that project is Quebec owned companies.

As we develop the Hibernia oil field and as we develop the fields around it, we will see more and more involvement of Newfoundland companies with companies from all across this country. This will enable us to bring together the skills, the knowledge, and the capability that we have not only to develop the oil and gas business but to move off into other ventures, to take the technological knowledge, the transfer of capacity, and export that around the world in the oil and gas business and to utilize it in many other industries for which there is similar need and like necessity.

My time is short. The third thing that got me a little upset and concerns me greatly is the lack of recognition in this place that if something is good for Newfoundland and Labrador, it is good for this country. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are as much a part of this country as anybody else and have been for over 40 years and, I would suggest, will be as long as this country continues to exist. The thought that just because it might be good for

Newfoundland does not mean that it is good for somebody else is absolutely despicable and should be unacceptable in any forum in this country. Our friends from British Columbia should not be so touchy. To quote a friend of mine, if the shoe fits—

I am delighted to hear my friend from Bonavista—Trinity—Conception talk about the need to move this legislation forward and the need to get on with this motion that limits time and gets this in place. We need to tie up the loose ends and the pressure that exists on the Canada–Newfoundland offshore agreement.

I was intrigued by the number of the hon. member's colleagues who were presenting petitions this afternoon. I was intrigued that there was absolutely no co-operation on the motions. I was very intrigued that we made it past five o'clock, so we lose another day. I would suggest that my Newfoundland colleagues across the way ensure that they talk to the remainder of their colleagues to ensure that this does move through and that the obstruction that we saw today does not continue, because this project is vital to this country. One part of this country that will benefit most from it is Newfoundland and Labrador but not at the exclusion of the other Atlantic provinces, not at the exclusion of any province in this country.

We have an opportunity here for all of us. Newfoundland has an economy that can only provide so much and take so much. The concept of a \$5.2 billion project in an economy like Newfoundland and Labrador, all we have to do is think about the capacity of that economy to bear such a project. It has to be of benefit of all Canadians by sheer logic, but all Canadians can maximize their benefit wherever they live, as individuals, as corporate groups or anything else like that, by seizing the opportunities that are provided by the contribution of the government and the people of Canada in terms of this grant or loan guarantee. The sooner we vote on this and get it passed, the better off all this country will be.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, it seems like a nightmare is occurring on the floor of the House of Commons.

I cannot believe that what I am hearing are people actually expressing their views. I hear a representative of the Conservative government saying that we must go out now and we must bribe and entice these poor multinational oil companies to come into our waters and start