Government orders

Madam Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

Madam Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

Madam Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it

And more than five members having risen:

Madam Deputy Speaker: Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion, which was negatived on the following division:

(Division No. 295)

YEAS

Members

Members

Duceppe Leblanc (Longueuil) Tremblay (Rosemont)—5 Lapierre Rocheleau

Mayer-10

NAYS

Members

Andre
Campbell (Vancouver Centre)
Collins

Blenkarn Clark (Brandon—Souris) Dingwall Kempling

MacDougall (Timiskaming)

• (1640)

[Translation]

Madam Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion lost. [English]

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Madam Speaker, I feel somewhat refreshed after that vote of confidence to be able to get up and speak on this motion.

I would like to begin by complimenting my colleagues from Manicouagan and from Richmond—Wolfe. I certainly appreciated the comments that they had, and I do believe they put this amendment very much in perspective.

I can say at the outset that on a project of this nature, one of the biggest if not the biggest project that has ever been undertaken in Canada, as a Newfoundlander of course I have my own views, but surely there is enough to go around for everybody on this by the time we get over the details of what is going to follow. I mean we are at

the very early stages of the bidding on this particular, very highly technical contract. When we make comments and when it is written in the contract that we are looking at best efforts and we want the best and the maximum, I think we have to put it in perspective.

Like everything in this world this project is a tradeoff. I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that I would love to have this project have everything for Canada, bar none, without exception, but I believe I am a realist and I know that many of my colleagues on both sides of the House are realists as well.

Let me put it to you another way, Madam Speaker. If we waited until we had this particular contract perfect, we would have the contract still being negotiated until the second coming. It would be impossible to have it perfect. Somewhere between the perfection and the doing, the practical nature of getting oil out of Hibernia and the follow on fields in Ben Nevis and Terra Nova, which is 20 miles south of Hibernia, we have got to get moving on it.

Our subamendment asks in its simplest terms to favour the maximum Canadian content without jeopar-dizing, without delaying the progress of this very important project, not just to Newfoundland or Quebec but to Canada. The whole of the country is going to be involved. If we were to wait until we got all the things that we wanted, we would never ever be able to get the project under way.

The NDP and the independent members of this House, it would appear to me, do not particularly want this project to go ahead. NDP members have already said that. There are a number of reasons why they said it. I was not amused, but I found it passing strange that the hon. member for Kamloops got up and complained about the little time that we have spent speaking on this particular project.

I also recall the hon. member for Edmonton East, just a few moments ago, complaining about various aspects of what went on, what was not done, what should have been done, and that sort of thing. Without playing dirty pool, I remember very distinctly as the quarterback of this bill, certainly for second reading and I participated in first reading, that there was no big fuss about why the project should not go ahead. There were some amendments being proposed. I remember distinctly in committee on June 13 that it took one day because that is what the