

*Oral Questions*

the Ministry but it never reached the negotiating table. Both Clayton Yeutter, and Mr. Ritchie on our side, said it is outside the agreement. When both negotiators say that, why can the Hon. Member not accept it?

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**ENERGY****HIBERNIA OILFIELD DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the reports both in national newspapers and on national television regarding the proposed start-up of the Hibernia project. It has been reported there will be \$2 billion in federal government financial support, and a shameful agreement by the—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Tobin:**—Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to forgo all royalties. Members of the Conservative Party may find it funny that Newfoundlanders would be required to give up royalties on Hibernia oil as a precondition to this project, but Newfoundlanders do not find it funny.

**Mr. McDermid:** Have you seen the agreement?

**Mr. Tobin:** They find it very similar to what happened on Churchill Falls and they do not want it repeated.

**Miss MacDonald:** That was a Liberal Government.

**Mr. Tobin:** Can the Deputy Prime Minister give Members of this House and, through them, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador the assurance today that the Province of Newfoundland will not be required to forgo royalties on the production of Hibernia oil as a precondition to a start-up of that project?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I find it rather strange that the Hon. Member would be condemning an agreement which he has not seen and which has not yet been ratified. I can tell him that the discussions have been going on between the federal Government and the Government of Newfoundland as well as members of the sponsoring consortium who are interested in advancing the Hibernia project. It is a major project, one that is important to Newfoundland and Canada. I hope the tone of his question would not signify his opposition to the development of this important resource for the people of Canada, and in particular the people of Newfoundland.

**REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE ON PAYMENT OF ROYALTIES**

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Lest there be any doubt about it let me tell the Deputy Prime

Minister, and I am sure I speak for many Newfoundlanders when I say this, that if developing the project arises out of desperate measures employed by political Parties in desperate trouble in Newfoundland, that is forgoing royalties to the province in order to get this project going, then we do not want it.

This is an important project and can be beneficial. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister again can he give this House and, through this House, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, an assurance that that province, the poorest in the country, will not be required to forgo royalties on Hibernia oil in any way, shape or form, as a precondition to the start-up of this project?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland are both interested in developing this very important resource, as I indicated earlier, for the security of energy supply and for the tremendous spin-off benefits that will accrue. The negotiations have been taking place in very close consultation with the Government of Newfoundland, and I say to the Hon. Member that any agreement that will be reached will be reached on the basis of complete concurrence with the Government of Newfoundland.

**Mr. Tobin:** Will they forgo royalties?

• (1440)

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Will they forgo royalties? Mr. Speaker, it was this Government which brought forth the Atlantic Accord which recognized that resources belong to the province. It will be fully consistent with that, something the former Liberal Government denied the province. That is an important element.

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**CHILD CARE****GOVERNMENT PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR REDRAFTING**

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, if he is in the House. I see him rapidly running to his seat. I must say I do not blame him for hiding behind the curtains.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Miss MacDonald:** That is totally uncalled for.

**Mr. Boudria:** Were you having a cigarette behind the curtains?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member will put her question.