

talking about a series of six or seven other projects that are ready to go, Wild Rose, Ben Nevis and numerous others. We are not just talking about cement and steel and putting steel together and putting it on a big platform. We are talking about engineering.

We are talking about the capacity technology development and transfer gives us. My hon. colleagues opposite question whether the people who work and live in Newfoundland and Labrador have the skills to do this work. Can you believe that? My Newfoundland colleagues are horrified at the thought because we, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, have the skills that have kept cities like Cambridge, and places like Thompson in northern Ontario and across the west working and building for years. Well, now it is our chance to build our own home where people can live and work in the place where they grew up and want to live. They will build their futures for their kids.

If that is what \$2.7 billion gets us, then it is a damn good investment for the country now and in the future.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Reid: I didn't even look at my notes.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, I hate to interrupt my friend from St. John's East who admits he did not look at his notes. I am waiting to hear what he is going to do when he actually checks what he was really going to say.

Like every Newfoundlander who sits in this chamber, I am pleased that the Hibernia project is going forward. At the outset I want to do what I have already done publicly, to congratulate the gentleman from St. John's West, the Minister for International Trade and the Minister of Energy for the effort they put into this. I know that behind the scenes my good friend from St. John's East was in there batting, too. We are proud the project is going ahead.

I was following the proceedings in my office a minute ago. There is not much need to deal with this issue because my friend from Gander—Grand Falls dealt with it admirably, but I did hear the gentlemen from Richelieu when he spoke a few moments ago. Don't desecrate

the new kids phraseology, it is the new heads on the block.

[*Translation*]

—waiting for the guillotine.

[*English*]

As one of the new heads on the block was saying a moment ago, the gentleman from Richelieu—and my friend from St. John's East touched on it just for a moment—he was taking about this condescension. He said that we cannot do it. These poor, stunned Newfoundlanders cannot work a few bolts or put a few pipes down the ocean or pour a bit of cement. Now that kind of nonsense—

• (1820)

Mr. Plamondon: I never said that.

Mr. Simmons: Read the transcript, that is exactly what the gentleman from Richelieu was saying.

Mr. Plamondon: No.

Mr. Simmons: If he knows as much about the other causes he espouses as this particular one, God help the cause he is espousing!

Mr. Plamondon: I never said that.

Mr. Simmons: Denial, denial. That is the other plank in their platform: deny everything.

Mr. Speaker, I give you notice and I give the new heads on the block notice, I give them all notice, I give everybody notice that this project within the parameters as it has been spelled out will be a first-class project, done the way that Newfoundlanders do everything—with class and with pride. There is no doubt about that.

Let us not hear again from the gentleman from Richelieu or anybody else about the quality of the project and whether it can be done. If that is what he is losing sleep over at night, he should sleep soundly tonight.

While we have my good friend here, the Minister of Energy, I want to put something else on the record. Yes, we are glad this project is going ahead. Yes, we admire what the Minister did and the Minister for International Trade did and, on the other side, the Premier, Mr. Wells, and the Minister of Energy, Mr. Gibbons, did. We admire what they did. But let us understand the parameters within which they were operating. Let us understand