

Hibernia represents perhaps a change from the "Make and Break Harbour" syndrome and perhaps a change from the no-hope syndrome that so many of my people report to me and that I have witnessed myself.

Apart from the discussions that will take place here tonight, apart from the housekeeping amendments, apart from all the things that will go on, the one thing that it has given Newfoundland is hope, hope in the midst of despair, hope still for the ocean, but hope in a different aspect, in a different dimension of the ocean.

Mr. Speaker, I wish you could have been in St. John's, Newfoundland on September 14, a week ago Friday. I know the hon. Minister was there. The feeling is very difficult to translate. It did not matter which party you were from. It did not matter what part of Newfoundland you were from. It did not matter whether you had an invitation or not.

• (1730)

The almost 1,400 people who attended that reception in the Hotel Newfoundland was something to behold. The whole thread of hope went right through that reception. That emotion is still with us in Newfoundland. We know that there is more to it than this and we know the spin-offs are not just for Newfoundland. They are for the rest of Canada and we are happy about that. We in Newfoundland are not greedy. We are very pleased to be able to share a project of this nature.

I would be less than total and complete in my introductory comments if I did not admit that the majority of this project, that is the building of the gravity base structure will take place almost in the epicentre of my riding, near Sunnyside, about four miles from it at Mosquito Cove near Bull Arm, nice picturesque words. There is hope.

There is one other comment I would like to make. I have not been in this political business very long, but I have been involved in different aspects of different bills. I must say that it gave me, as a neophyte politician, great hope in the politics and in the business of doing these kind of things in this House, the highest court in the land, when I saw the kind of co-operation we received in getting this bill through. I believe we started first

reading, if my memory serves me correctly, on November 7 last year. We had another round I believe on February 9 for second reading. We got through committee stage shortly after, I think about June 6 or 7. I remember the hon. minister and his staff making themselves immediately available. It was detailed, it was hard work. We worked into the night and we finished it very quickly and very amicably.

I would also say that I am very conscious, as I know my Newfoundland colleagues are, and I hope the House is very conscious of the personal hard work and energy the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources put into this. I am sure the hon. Minister of International Trade and others did also. I know they were in the forefront of the very difficult negotiations that took place this summer.

We were hoping to have third reading before the House took recess, but for reasons that I need not get into, it was not deemed appropriate to bring it before the House. As a last resort I asked the minister, and I quote the question:

Is it possible for the minister to give us any indication of the date so that the people of Canada would have some indication of when they are finally going to derive some benefits from this mega project?

I do not have the minister's exact reply, but he knows that he said: "Yes, we will continue to negotiate during the summer and work will begin this fall". I believed the minister. I knew he would work hard at it, and I am very pleased to report that the results at this point in time are history. Therefore, I would like to go on record for myself and certainly my Newfoundland colleagues and all my colleagues on this side of the House and thank both ministers. I know the hard work the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and his staff put into it. That certainly is to be taken into account.

I know we will be speaking in more detail on this and in depth. I have more detailed comments to make and I know a lot of my colleagues wish to speak to it as well.

At this this particular point in time I would like to say: Thank you for the progress we have made so far and let us hope that we can continue in the spirit of hope and co-operation as we go through to third reading.