

Every Newfoundland Premier, while he has a responsibility to the nation as a whole, has as his principal responsibility furthering the interests of the people of our province. Mr. Wells believes that the provision of the Meech Lake Accord relating to new shared-cost programs in exclusive provincial jurisdiction would condemn Newfoundland to eternal poverty. If I believed what Mr. Wells believes, I too would oppose the Meech Lake Accord. But, he is wrong.

Mr. Wells has said,

"Every time the federal Parliament tries to use its spending power to correct the problem of regional development, that provision of Meech Lake will require the government to pay a pro-rata share to Ontario and Quebec to opt out."

What is it that Mr. Wells is talking about? What is it that the federal government would have to give to Ontario in order to be able to give it to Newfoundland?

If the federal government wanted to increase equalization to Newfoundland ... as this government has from \$618.6 million in 1984/85 to \$910.5 million in 1989/90... how much would it have to give to Ontario? Not one cent.

If the federal government wanted to increase funding for ERDAs and direct regional development expenditures ... as this government has for Atlantic Canada from \$182 million in 1984/85 to \$500 million in 1989/90, how much would it have to give to Ontario? Not one cent.

If the federal government wanted to commit more than \$2 billion to support petroleum development in the Newfoundland offshore ... as this government has under the Offshore Development Fund and for Hibernia ... how much would it have to give to Ontario? Not one cent.

If the federal government wanted to build roads, ferries and airports in Newfoundland, like the \$1.5 billion spent and committed for transportation in our province from 1984 to 1988 ... if the federal government wanted to support the fishery through increased funding for measures like the Inshore Fisheries Agreement, improvements to Small Craft Harbours or emergency response funding ... if the federal government wanted to support the rehabilitation of the Come By Chance oil refinery or the three paper mills, as this government has done since 1984 ... if the federal government wanted to support the development of the military base at Goose Bay, as this government has done since 1984 ... how much would the federal government have to give to Ontario? Not one cent.