

Wednesday, March 31st, 2004

The House met at 2 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Susan Tobin of Marystown on winning the Dr. Paul O'Neil Scholarship for Excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador Studies.

The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Pat O'Toole from Carbonear who recently ran a marathon in Bermuda to raise money for the Arthritis Society.

The Member for Humber Valley (Ms. Goudie) made a Statement to congratulate Mayor Harold Ball of Deer Lake on receiving the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for his contributions to his community and country.

The Member for Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid) made a Statement to recognize the recent recipients of awards from the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary at the organization's 25th anniversary banquet. The Member congratulated Mr. John Troake from his District who was honoured for his hard work and dedication in offering his services as a volunteer.

The Member for St. John's North (Mr. Ridgley) made a Statement to congratulate sixteen year old Betty Zou, a grade 12 student at Prince of Wales Collegiate who recently won the Northwest Rotary Speak Off in St. John's. The Member stated that Ms. Zou will travel to Ottawa in May for the National Competition.

The Member for Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune (Mr. Langdon) made a Statement to recognize the work done by Mothers Against Drunk Driving in the Province. In particular, the Member relayed the story of a family from Michigan on their personal loss because of a drunk driver.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) rose to advise Members that the Honourable the Premier would not be in the House due to his involvement in the negotiating process with the leadership of the public service unions.

The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District opposing the reduction of health care services in the area from South Branch to Rose Blanche and requesting the Western Health Care Corporation to provide the level of health care services currently being delivered in the area without reduction.

The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition on

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behalf of certain residents of her District requesting the Minister of Transportation & Works to release immediately the report on the Labrador Coastal Marine Service and to make a decision on the ferry service.

The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) rose on a point of order respecting the interpretation of Standing Order 63 respecting Private Members' Day. The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

By leave, pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the main purpose of the Atlantic Accord for Newfoundland and Labrador, according to paragraph 2(c), is to become the principal beneficiary of the oil and gas resources off its shores;

AND WHEREAS that condition has not been met;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House call upon the Government of Canada to acknowledge and honour its obligation under the Atlantic Accord to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador is the principal beneficiary of the oil and gas resources off its shores;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House call upon the Government of Canada specifically to allow Newfoundland and Labrador to receive 100 per cent of the provincial revenues from oil and gas off its shores.

During the debate the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) moved, seconded by the Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) that the Resolution be amended by adding to the end of the Resolution the words:

including the transfer to the Province of the 8.5% share in Hibernia now owned by the Federal Government.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the Resolution and the Resolution itself.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment to the Resolution and declared the amendment to the Resolution carried.

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The Speaker put the question on the Resolution as amended and declared the Resolution as amended carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow Thursday, April 1st, 2004 at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

A. John Noel, Q.C.,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.