

ON MARCH 31, 1949, I BECAME A CANADIAN AGAINST MY WILL.

BORN A NEWFOUNDLANDER, I HAD OPPOSED THE UNION OF MY SMALL COUNTRY WITH CANADA. THUS, WITH MY PROVINCE'S ENTRY, I WAS COMPELLED TO TEST THE VALIDITY OF MY NEW, UNWANTED COUNTRY'S DEMANDS ON MY LOYALTY AND AFFECTION. AS A RESULT, I AM NOW PROUD TO BE A CANADIAN STRONGLY COMMITTED TO NATIONAL UNITY. I HOPE WHAT I HAVE LEARNED MAY BE OF SOME VALUE IN THE PRESENT DIFFICULT PERIOD.

IMPORTANCE OF REGIONALISM

NEWFOUNDLAND'S RESISTANCE TO UNION FOR SO LONG PROVIDES FURTHER PROOF THAT REGIONALISM IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN THE STRONGEST INFLUENCE ON CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT. CANADIANS ARE CAUGHT IN A CONSTANT STRUGGLE BETWEEN INTENSE REGIONAL LOYALTIES AND CONCERN FOR CANADA AS A WHOLE. WHERE THE BASIS OF THIS STRUGGLE IS ECONOMIC, REFLECTING A DESIRE FOR MATERIAL ADVANCEMENT, THE MOTIVATION IS ROUGHLY SIMILAR IN ALL REGIONS INCLUDING QUEBEC. BUT, WHEN THE LANGUAGE DIMENSION IS ADDED, THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE EMERGES BETWEEN