

British North America Act

what he intends to say in connection with this debate. My hon. friends have not even given him that chance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): I felt that the hon. member was laying the groundwork. Therefore, if he will continue we will save time.

Mr. Pickersgill: With a tar brush.

Mr. McGee: I notice that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) is protesting. Is he doing so on behalf of this little group in the corner?

Mr. Pickersgill: I was saying that the hon. member seemed to be laying his groundwork with a tar brush. That was a purely objective observation.

An hon. Member: You profess to be a judge, do you?

Mr. Pickersgill: A member of the public.

Mr. McGee: The other comment which interested me—and I hope no hon. members will object to my commenting on the remarks of the member who preceded me, much less the hon. member himself;—it seems to me that that is the purpose of debate in this house, namely to comment on matters referred to in the speech of the member who precedes one in this debate or in any debate for that matter.

Mr. Pickersgill: One irrelevancy deserves another.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): There is no better judge of that.

Mr. McGee: As to the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, when the history of this country is written and the students of future years examine *Hansard* they will wonder who in the world this wonderful person was who presumed to participate in virtually every other member's speech in the house.

Mr. Habel: They may find it is you.

Mr. Winch: In view of what the hon. member has said, is he going to comment on my remarks that politics should have no connection with redistribution? I have been saying that for a while now.

Mr. McGee: Mr. Speaker, I have been honestly trying to come to my point. My friend the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, who seems to be incapable of remaining silent for more than about 15 minutes at any given time, has interrupted. Two members from the lonesome eight in the corner have interrupted. I should very much like to get on to the body of my remarks. This statement is my final comment on the philosophy of your group. I think it

[Mr. Hamilton (York West).]

has been said far better than I can say it by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Chambers) who said "he represents what I call the socialist doctrine of the assumption of the monopoly of virtue." Yet I find it is in curious contrast to the statement made by the hon. member to the effect that we are all human, implying that there was something sort of nasty about this process of the state of being, a statement with which I do not mind telling my hon. friend I do not agree.

Mr. Winch: Are you not human?

Mr. McGee: In acknowledging that fact I do not associate myself with the characteristics of the hon. member who originated the statement. We are all human beings, yes, but different human beings.

Mr. Winch: Have you no frailties?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): Order. I must again remind hon. members that they should and must address the chair.

Mr. Winch: I will address you, Mr. Speaker. Is my hon. friend prepared to sing his own praises now and to say that he has no frailties of a human being?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): That is not a question, I do not think. Will the hon. member continue?

Mr. Winch: It is a question that he will not answer.

Mr. McGee: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me to be an unnecessary question.

An hon. Member: He wants you to confess.

Mr. McGee: In pursuing this matter of commenting on the content of the remarks of the speaker who preceded me, my effort is obviously not destined to be too successful in view of the number of interruptions. I think every hon. member of this house agrees that there is a need to achieve a fair redistribution. Following along with the idea of this matter of fairness I think it behooves us to examine the actions of past parliaments which dealt with redistribution, to observe the degree of fairness which they exhibited towards certain political decisions, not the least of which was the gerrymandering of the former riding of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and to examine the record of those former governments in such matters. This is like many of the matters, resolutions, private bills and motions being put forward by the lonesome eight. I think they are fighting a lost battle; that they are protesting where protest is no longer required; that they are in the words of a certain gentleman who wrote an article recently in an edition of the Canadian Journal