

carry out feasibility studies concerning the linking either by causeway or tunnel of two other major islands with the rest of Canada? I refer to Newfoundland and Vancouver Island.

The Minister of Transport in reply, speaking I am sure in a rather jocular vein, said:

Mr. Speaker, I think priority should be given to Newfoundland.

Of course, representing Bonavista-Twillingate I have some appreciation that the minister's immediate reaction might be in that direction. However, Mr. Chairman, much as I admire the island of Newfoundland, I happen to represent a fairly substantial part of the geography of Canada and the people of Canada encompassed within the boundaries of Vancouver Island, and I think the minister will understand me quite well when I say that I should take the opportunity of presenting the other side of the case assuming, if he wants to for the moment, that we are not going to carry out these projects at the same time.

I should like to draw to the minister's attention that this is the year 1966, which is of particular significance to many Canadians because it is the 100th anniversary of the date on which the people of the then crown colony of Vancouver Island decided to throw in their lot with the people of a large part of the mainland of what is now Canada, and become part and parcel of the then crown colony of British Columbia. Therefore I would advance as a first point in this discussion that, while we were all very happy when Newfoundland decided to become part of Canada, it will be several years before Newfoundland will be celebrating its centenary of becoming linked in a constitutional way with the mainland of what is now Canada.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. gentleman is quite wrong about that. Newfoundland has always been linked in a constitutional way with the mainland of what is now Canada. The coast of Labrador has always been a part of Newfoundland.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Barnett:** I admit that the minister is constitutionally correct in that respect; I would not quarrel with him. However, I might point out in reply that while we have not quite reached that point, mainland or not, at least British Columbia became part of Canada in 1871, which will still mean we shall be celebrating our 100th anniversary somewhat before Newfoundland. I think we have to put this matter into perspective.

### *Supply—Transport*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman spoke about perspective and I must say that thought was going through my mind. I did make an appeal yesterday that subjects which could just as well be discussed on the 1966-67 estimates as on the 1965-66 estimates perhaps could be adjourned until we reach those estimates. I cannot help but feel that this visionary project, in which I take a great deal of interest, is one that would still be quite current when the next round of my estimates comes before the committee in a few weeks from now. I wonder whether the hon. gentleman would not consider that perhaps this matter is not urgent between now and March 31.

**Mr. Barnett:** I appreciate the desire of the minister to have his estimates proceeded with as rapidly as possible, but I would point out, Mr. Chairman, through you two things to the minister. One relates to my reference to the building of the Canso causeway. All these matters have to start some time, and if my recollection of the debates that took place before the decision was made to build the Canso causeway is correct, I would suggest it is not at all too soon to begin right now putting forward this proposal, which as far as I know is a comparatively new one, as far as making a serious request for a feasibility study in which the federal government would be prepared to participate is concerned.

The second point I should like to make to the minister is this. In making this proposal at this time I am in effect assisting the minister with a suggestion which will enable him, in my view, to get himself off the hook in respect of another matter which is of very current and immediate interest and has been the subject matter of considerable discussion during the process of the consideration of these estimates. I refer to the question of subsidies on shipbuilding.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, will the hon. gentleman assure me that if I agree right now that we will start a feasibility study on a causeway to Vancouver Island there will be no more ferries needed between now and the time it is built?

**Mr. Barnett:** Well, now, Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Otherwise I do not see how the hon. member is getting me off the hook.

**Mr. Barnett:** Of course, I am not the only one who has any say in the question of a ferry service. In fact, as the minister knows, I have very little if any say in the question of a ferry service that may or may not be