

Grants to Newfoundland

friends look back to those days when they believed that they would be in the seats of office forever. Their treatment of Newfoundland at that time is a far cry from the verbal protestations of today. Certainly, the premier has been outspoken, but what did he say regarding the government of the day of which the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was so distinguished a representative? This was the kind of system used in his appointment. Mr. Smallwood recommended the member for Bonavista-Twillingate and Mr. St. Laurent said he accepted that recommendation. What did Mr. Smallwood say of those who today say that they are the friends of Newfoundland; that they intend to do those things that they did not do when they were in office, namely to raise living standards in Newfoundland. What did Mr. Smallwood say on June 25, 1955, when speaking at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea? This is what he said:

Premier Joseph Smallwood threatened last night to lead Newfoundland out of confederation with Canada unless the federal government stopped discriminating against the four Atlantic provinces, including his own.

Mr. Speaker, that was in 1955, and he went on to say—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether I might interrupt the Prime Minister. It being five o'clock, the house will now proceed to the consideration of public bills, pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether we could have unanimous consent of the house to carry on?

Mr. Pickersgill: As far as we are concerned, yes.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the unanimous consent of the house to waive the hour for private and public bills under section 3, standing order 15?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I continue:

It is not good for Canada to leave these Atlantic provinces to their own resources.

Then, he went on to use these words:

Before we become second-class citizens of Canada, we will show the other maritime provinces how to get out of confederation.

That was in 1955, Mr. Speaker, after they had been in confederation for six years. He went on—and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate may take whatever joy he can out of this:

The federal government has made miserable proposals of sharing the cost in surveys of the wealth of timber, hydro power and minerals. We

have gone ahead on our own and since confederation have spent \$23 million to help build new industries.

If confederation was not to recognize the right of all Canadians to some equality in living standards and opportunity, Newfoundland and the maritimes might as well be declared game preserves for the holidays of Canadians from more prosperous provinces.

Where was this triumvirate sitting opposite me at that time? The ministers of the crown making of Newfoundland a game preserve, a place for holidays—

Mr. Pearson: What is wrong with that?

Mr. Diefenbaker:—and making the people of Newfoundland second class citizens. Where was the Leader of the Opposition then, except in a position of power? Where was the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill)?

Those are the things that I thought might be of interest when my hon. friends opposite reiterate the shortcomings of this government which in the period since June 21, 1957 has made available over and above everything for which Canada was responsible under the extant agreement, \$7.5 million a year to Newfoundland which, had the former government remained in power, would never have been paid to Newfoundland.

After all, the record speaks. Now, we come to the *Toronto Daily Star* of July 9, 1955 when the premier wrote an article which is headed:

Premier "Joey" Smallwood, who almost single-handedly led Newfoundland into confederation with Canada, threatened the other day to lead her out again unless the federal government acted to make the four Atlantic provinces "economically strong."

Mr. Speaker, what did they do, those who sit today in the seats of the opposition? In those days from 1949 to 1955 what did they do? Newfoundland asked for action from 1953 onward, and Newfoundland had the representative for Bonavista-Twillingate. What did they do in those years? I give you the answer from the premier himself. He said this:

I am ashamed and angry to say it, but the altogether stupid, bungling, inadequate effort of great Canada to assist the Atlantic fishing industry (which is potentially almost as valuable in dollars and cents and much more valuable in numbers of families that can be supported than the oil industry of Alberta) is a reproach to a great and progressive country.

Who was in power when he said that? The question answers itself. Where was the self-appointed custodian of the rights of Newfoundland, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, then? Where was the Department of Fisheries? The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has shown a tremendous interest in the last two years in