

*Financial Assistance to Newfoundland*

irrevocable grant on the basis of an interpretation of the agreement of 1949. Albeit the rest of Canada was most grateful to the people of Newfoundland for agreeing to come into Canada, after all this was a decision of their own; it was a mature decision. On the other hand, even though they may have that right of a mature decision, surely to goodness the rest of Canada also has a right to a mature decision. In my province and the rest of Canada, who may have to assume the burden of this grant, there is also the right to discuss and to agree on the basis of the allocation of whatever dollars and cents may be represented in the minds of the people of Newfoundland with regard to term 29.

We are quite prepared to pass this resolution so that we can see the bill, and we will then be prepared to discuss this matter on the basis of the government's proposal. It is not an undertaking from an election campaign which is going to bind the parliament of Canada. It is not binding, whether it is by a man who is seeking the prime ministership of this country or whether it shall be by representations of a minister or a member who comes from that province. It is what this house says and what the other house says, in so far as any of these points are concerned.

I have repeated several times now that this is a determination to be made by representatives of the people of the rest of Canada. If it is their desire that they shall grant unto the province of Newfoundland the amount, fixed in perpetuity—and here I am not trying to second-guess the bill—then that shall be the fiscal price of accession to confederation within Canada. Leaving aside all other considerations, I am sure all other parts of Canada welcome the people of Newfoundland into Canada.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I wonder if the hon. gentleman will permit me to ask him one question?

**Mr. Lambert:** Yes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Was the hon. member speaking for his party?

**Mr. Lambert:** Well, I am speaking here as—

**Mr. Monteith:** The minister started to play politics with this bill and he still is. If he would quit playing politics he would get farther.

**Mr. Starr:** Why does the minister play politics with all of these things? That is the business of the country.

[Mr. Lambert.]

**Mr. Lambert:** Is the minister speaking for every member of his party?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am speaking for the government.

**Mr. Lambert:** Are you speaking for every member of your party and the representatives of my province?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I do not know.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Chairman, this is a very illuminating approach by the minister. He has no representatives within my province; he has no representatives within my neighbouring province of Saskatchewan. Are many other provinces to be brushed aside? I point out to the minister that perhaps the reason he has no representatives in these provinces is because they have no mandate within those provinces. If this requires a third repetition, I will say again that notwithstanding the repeated elections, he has no mandate within those provinces, and those provinces are just as much a part of Canada as any other part. This is a factor which seems to be forgotten in too many instances.

I would underline to the minister: Let him come out to those provinces and find out, instead of sitting here in a sort of ivory tower, or listening to the advice from certain provinces as to what Canada should be. This is a partnership.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I agree.

**Mr. Lambert:** All right. A partnership if made up of views which are expressed openly and freely, and are never imposed. I am quite prepared to discuss this with the people concerned, but I will not have them imposed on me. In this connection I believe I express the views of my party.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, the concern which I have in connection with this legislation is why the minister has not sought to have it enshrined in an amendment to the British North America Act. It seems to me that if, as he told us and as some others believe, it is as sacrosanct as he suggests, then it ought to be by way of an amendment to the British North America Act. What basis is there for putting it in a single statute, rather than a statute which has some other legislation in it? Where is the minister improving the situation?

● (9:40 p.m.)

If he really believes, and I think he does, that something should be done, then it seems