

*The Address—Mr. Carter*

My province, sir, having as it does a centuries old tradition of loyalty to the crown, also has a deep and lasting loyalty to Canada. Although we have been a province for less than 20 years, I can tell this honourable house that all but a very few of my fellow Newfoundlanders are extremely proud to be part of this great Canada of ours. The people of my province are desperately anxious to make their contribution and to play their part in the building of a strong and prosperous nation. I repeat, sir, that my fellow Newfoundlanders are anxious to play their part in the building of a strong Canada and to contribute to this union of ours which took place in 1949.

I make that point because I suspect that as a result of the utterances of certain Newfoundland politicians the average Canadian citizen may very well have the impression that Newfoundland is getting the best of the bargain, that our union is a one-sided effort. This, Mr. Speaker, is not true.

In 1949 when my people elected to become part of Canada I was too young to vote. I did, however, favour Newfoundland's confederation with Canada while at the same time entertaining certain doubts as to the method by which it was brought about. Like all of my fellow countrymen I was extremely proud of my heritage and of our centuries old tradition of independence. But yet—and again like the majority of my fellow Newfoundlanders—I knew that we could not continue to pay the price we were paying for our independence. I also, knew, sir, that the only hope for Newfoundland was to throw in its lot with our Canadian neighbours.

I am happy, Mr. Speaker, that the people of my province took that bold step in 1949, and it was a bold step, and became part of this great nation. I am proud to be a Canadian. My fellow Newfoundlanders, with very few exceptions, sir, are also proud to be Canadians.

Here, Mr. Speaker, I have a confession to make to my fellow members and to the Canadian people. I must confess that in 1949 I was conceited. I was a young fellow 20 years old and could not see past this Newfoundland of ours where we would stand to attention and sing the "Ode to Newfoundland". I was conceited enough to think that Canada was getting the best of the bargain. I have another confession to make, sir. I think that in this respect my opinions have not changed.

For our part, Mr. Speaker, in terms of national resources we brought to this great

nation one of the most wealthy land masses in North America. We conveyed, as it were, to this Canadian nation North America's last great frontier, Labrador. In terms of human resources, which I think all hon. members will agree is the greatest of all resources, we brought to this nation of Canada more than a quarter of a million industrial, Godfearing, hard working people of good British, Scottish and Irish ancestry. Do you blame me, Mr. Speaker, for getting the impression or for becoming conceited enough to think that Canada got the best of the bargain in 1949? And do you blame me for maintaining those views?

Newfoundland, as I have pointed out, is part of this great nation of Canada, and I repeat that we are very proud of it. Our province, sir, is separated from the mainland of Canada by approximately 90 miles of water. This is the distance between North Sydney and Port aux Basques. Those 90 nautical miles have a profound effect upon the economy of our island province.

The sea, which is the source of Newfoundland's prosperity, is also a kind of extra tariff that has been imposed upon the people of Newfoundland, I suppose as the price that we must pay for living in the best province of Canada. The price that we are paying results from this very expensive 90 miles of water that separates North Sydney from Port aux Basques. This tariff, that is imposed is in the form of transportation costs on all products that we must import from the Canadian mainland. It applies, of course, to machinery, equipment, building materials, eggs, produce of all kinds, milk and many of the things that the average Canadian citizen takes for granted in almost every other place in Canada.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in many respects the province of Newfoundland is a province of extremes. We have the highest, I repeat the highest, cost of living in Canada. Our average per capita income is the lowest. We have the highest rate of unemployment in Canada and we have the highest building costs. Newfoundland's per capita debt is soaring to a dangerously high level. Keeping pace with our rising capital debt is the tax burden that is being imposed upon our people. Therefore, putting all these factors together, I am sure all hon. members will agree with me when I say that we have our problems in Newfoundland.

Another very important fact that we must not forget, and of which Newfoundlanders are proud, is that for some strange reason that I