

Although Prince Edward Island is small geographically and is limited in population, it is the very cradle of confederation and it must be afforded equal opportunity in determining its destiny and, indeed, the destiny of its nation. I believe that the over-all majority of Canadians are desirous of constitutional renewal. Without an amending formula this desired constitutional renewal will be impossible. As I say, I have listened to the speeches of most of the hon. members, and they all seem to bring out one point, that we need to bring our constitution home, we agree with patriation, and that we should not have to go to a foreign country, even though it is the mother country, to have our constitution amended.

However, I fail to see what good it would do to bring the constitution back to Canada if we did not have an amending formula. That formula, in my opinion, would have to be dealt with in the British Parliament. If we brought the constitution back without such a formula it would be totally useless because we would be left in a strait-jacket. If we were unable to reach agreement in the last 53 years, I see little prospect in the next 53 years.

When I consider some of the items which I have brought up, particularly with regard to mobility and the things which are taking place in this country through the actions of the provinces, I believe it is imperative that we get on with the job and bring the constitution home. If this great country of ours called Canada is to prosper from sea to sea, I humbly submit that the Thirty-second Parliament should act with all dispatch to accomplish what all members of Parliament before us have been unable to accomplish. I say, bring the constitution home.

**Mr. Epp:** Mr. Speaker, would the parliamentary secretary, in view of the statements that he just made, accept a question at this time?

**Mr. Henderson:** Yes.

**Mr. Epp:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the parliamentary secretary is the sole government member of Parliament from Prince Edward Island, and in view of the fact that he mentioned that he was planning to propose an amendment to the amending formula as it would affect his province, has he discussed that amending formula either with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) or the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), or both, and has he received from them approval for that amendment?

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, I have not discussed such an amendment with the Prime Minister. What I said is that I would be presenting an amendment to the parliamentary committee. I asked, and I challenge once again, the Premier of Prince Edward Island and the two hon. members from the island, in the House to join with me so that our province will have that meaningful role within confederation.

**Mr. Epp:** Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary. How does the parliamentary secretary plan to proceed with that action if, as parliamentary secretary having taken an oath he

speaks at the present time in terms of government policy, and he has not received that approval earlier?

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that I am a member of cabinet.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Hope springs eternal.

**Mr. Henderson:** Perhaps the hon. member across the floor knows something which I do not know. I must say, though, that it is within my privilege as a member of Parliament representing at least one quarter of the people of Prince Edward Island—

**Mr. McGrath:** Not as a parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Henderson:** —to make such an amendment.

**Mr. Peter Ittinuar (Nunatsiak):** Mr. Speaker, I must say that it is always a little lonely for me to stand up in this place, although I am with colleagues whom I believe to be most sensitive to native issues in this House.

● (1600)

I am also not a little disappointed on entering this debate on the constitution because in the resolution that proposes four classifications of province I find that, as a territorial resident, I am left completely out of the picture, both in the pre-patriation and post-patriation stages.

I am also reminded somewhat of the Beothuks of Newfoundland—I do not mean this as a reflection on present day Newfoundland—who died off in a rather disdainful manner. I think this resolution might be the trigger that shoots off a more contemptuous bullet.

Let me state this premise before I make further comments about what we believe—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) on a point of order.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege, because I have already participated in the debate and hence I have no alternative but to interrupt the hon. member. He is historically inaccurate and I am sure he does not mean to deliberately cast a slur on the province of Newfoundland—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is failing to outline privilege in the sense that I have accepted it. I think the hon. member for Nunatsiak (Mr. Ittinuar) should be permitted to continue his speech and then the hon. member for St. John's East may respond.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for St. John's East, but I caution him that questions of privilege should be legitimate.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, you did not even hear me. Consequently I will not delay the hon. member