

## Supply—Justice

positive action has been taken to clear their good name. On the contrary, the action of the minister himself in his failure to send reinforcements when requested, the words he used as he voiced the appraisal of the situation in Newfoundland, and the action of this government in refusing to set up a complete inquiry into this matter have tended rather to lend credence to these matters.

When the premier of Newfoundland asked for an inquiry he cited the protection of the good name of the R.C.M.P. as one of his reasons. For the benefit of hon. members I should like to place that telegram on record. It is dated March 13, 1959, and addressed to the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada. I quote:

In the interests of the peace, order and good government of Canada and to protect the good name of the R.C.M.P. the government of Newfoundland invites the government of Canada to set up at once a public inquiry under a superior court judge from outside Newfoundland to investigate the acts of lawlessness and violence which have taken place in central Newfoundland since the strike of the loggers began on December 31, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts and assessing the responsibility. The government of Newfoundland would extend every facility and assistance to such a commission in its inquiry.

J. R. Smallwood

Hon. members will recall that in this very house questions were asked and statements were made which implied that the R.C.M.P. in Newfoundland were being used for other than their normal duties. In addition, articles appeared in newspapers all across Canada which carried the same implications. On March 16 the minister himself made a long statement in the house in which he reported the regrettable resignation of Commissioner Nicholson and in the course of that statement he used the following words in appraising the situation. I am quoting now from page 1961 of *Hansard*. This is what the minister said:

As I appreciate the situation, therefore, the request made by the government of Newfoundland for Royal Canadian Mounted Police reinforcements takes on the character not of a request to assist in the normal function and duty of the province in maintaining law and order, but of a request for additional help made necessary in the course of the furtherance of a project to extinguish a union from the province.

The minister was not speaking off the cuff when he spoke those words; he was reading a carefully prepared statement and we must assume that he had given weight to every word that he was uttering. The question must arise in anyone's mind that if the request was not a request to assist in the normal function and duties of the province in maintaining law and order, what else could it be?

**Mr. Fulton:** Just what I said it was.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** You said it was not.

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**Mr. Fulton:** It was just what I said it was in the words that have been read.

**Mr. Carter:** All right.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** March 11 or March 16.

**Mr. Fulton:** March 16 was the only occasion on which we discussed the request from Newfoundland. If my friend will read the record he will see that.

**Mr. Carter:** If the minister wants to stand by the explanation in the last part of the statement in which he said:

A request for additional help made necessary in the course of the furtherance of a project to extinguish a union from the province.

The minister is a lawyer, and when he spoke those words, surely he must have known what he was talking about. He must have seen the legislation, which was the only way in which the union to which he referred could be extinguished. If the minister did see the legislation he must know as a lawyer that its purpose was not to extinguish the union. In fact, it could not extinguish the union. All the legislation did was to free the company from being compelled to bargain with one union only. The effect of the previous certification was that the A.N.D. Company could bargain with the I.W.A. and nobody else, and all that the legislation did was to decertify the I.W.A. so that the company was free to bargain with any other union it wished. The legislation did not extinguish the union and the proof of that is that the I.W.A. is still in Newfoundland, still carrying on its functions, still maintaining its members and still giving out reports from time to time.

So the purpose could not have been to extinguish the union, and if it was not to extinguish the union what else could it be? Surely these words must raise a further question as to what the R.C.M.P. were doing in Newfoundland at that time. If the reinforcements were going to engage in something which was outside of the maintenance of law and order, surely the implication was that that was being done by the forces already on duty there. In another part of the statement on page 1960 of *Hansard* the minister went on to say:

Following the clash that took place on the highway outside the town of Badger on Tuesday evening, March 10, the situation apparently deteriorated further and Superintendent Parsons advised the commissioner that in view of the movement of 100 further strikers into the area, he felt that the call for reinforcements should be renewed.

The minister's refusal to send these reinforcements certainly must have indicated a lack of confidence in the judgment of the officer commanding the Newfoundland detachment who was on the spot and knew exactly what