

Interim Supply

powers of the strong, central federal government we will end up as 10 nations, 10 balkanized states, and the nation will finally dissolve.

An hon. Member: You are exaggerating.

Mr. Woolliams: My friend says I am exaggerating. He would know something about exaggeration, because he is a master of exaggeration and imagination. I do not want to get into an argument with him and perhaps he might bear with me. I have listened to his views, and I have learned a lot from the hon. member. I admit that he takes a different position from mine. I was born and raised in another province with a different culture. We who were born and raised in western Canada have our culture, our traditions and our heritage. Are we not permitted to present our arguments with regard to confederation? Is this not one Canada? Is the argument to be all one sided, with only one doctrine preached and not both sides of the picture? How can we ever hold the country together in that way? If we all think alike there is no thinking. That is my answer to that hon. member.

Let us take a look at what has really gone on. I say and I really believe that the present government—this may be strong language—has been Canada's assassin and is now acting as honorary pallbearer at its funeral.

An hon. Member: Oh, well—

Mr. Woolliams: Somebody says "oh, well". I want to say this afternoon—it is afternoon by now—that in the minds of the people of western Canada this government has been playing the grasshopper game. What do I mean by that? The two great players in this game are the present Prime Minister and Mr. Lesage. They are the players in the grasshopper game, and they hop in and hop out of certain federal economic programs.

We have some proven programs. We have the winter works program, the vocational training program, even unemployment insurance. Let us deal with unemployment insurance. When it was first brought before the House of Commons in the days of R. B. Bennett it was charged that the act was unconstitutional, but after an amendment to the constitution unemployment insurance finally became the law and applied to all Canadians.

I am going to have something to say about the British North America Act itself, but surely under confederation those things that apply to all Canadians and are common to all of us, those things which are not of local

[Mr. Woolliams.]

concern to the province of Quebec or Alberta or Ontario, are national in scope. Sometimes we have had to get agreement on the part of the provinces because of the wording of the act, but I say that any federal government that makes deals with Mr. Lesage or any other premier to hop in and out of economic programs which have already been proven is an assassin of the country and is acting as honorary pallbearer at its funeral.

Mr. Pepin: Those words will come back to you.

Mr. Woolliams: I hear my friend saying something. The Liberals do not like what I am saying because they know it is true. I want to deal with my second point, the constitution itself. A question was put to the Prime Minister yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition, and the Prime Minister, I believe, answered that there was no change in the new formula for amendment of the constitution from that sponsored by Hon. Davie Fulton, the former minister of justice.

I say that is untrue. It is not intellectually correct and it is not legally correct. I see the Minister of Transport looking at me. I look upon him as one of the intellectuals of the house in this regard, and I think he will be able to look at the act and see that intellectually speaking what the Prime Minister said was not correct. I do not say any more than that. I do not think the Prime Minister deliberately got up and gave a false opinion. I do say you will find that intellectually there is a difference in the formula. That is my first charge.

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. gentleman has put a question to me, and if he will give me the page I should like to answer it. Could the hon. gentleman give me the page in *Hansard*?

Mr. Woolliams: I may be thinking of another question, but that is the way it seemed to me yesterday.

Mr. Pickersgill: I listened to the Prime Minister, and I would rather read exactly what he said.

Mr. Woolliams: Let us read what he said.

Mr. Pickersgill: If somebody can find the page faster than I can—

Mr. Woolliams: Anyway, let us have your interpretation.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not want to give any interpretation. I want to read it.

Mr. Woolliams: If the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate wants to make a speech