

Interim Supply

House of Commons may in time of real or apprehended war, invasion or insurrection be continued by the Parliament of Canada if such continuation is not opposed by the votes of more than one third of the members of such house".

2. This act may be cited as The British North America (No. 2) Act, 1949, and shall be included among the acts which may be cited as The British North America Acts, 1867 to 1949.

Briefly, what does all that mean? It means, except those powers given to the provinces; except as to the English language; except as to the French language; except as to some of those other rights delegated to the provinces by the act itself, the federal parliament, by the proper methods, may petition the imperial parliament and they could amend and restrict or extend their own powers as defined. But under the new amending formula I say that the right of amending our own powers, the right of being master in our own household, has been assigned to the provinces. Therein lies the difference between the Fulton formula and the formula today. That is why I said this morning—and I want to repeat it—that if that formula goes through we will have carved up this country into ten Balkan states.

I listened with great interest to the leader of the Ralliement Cr ditiste and I am sure, after listening to his argument, that we are not far apart, even though we are many miles apart in a great country. It is a matter of definition; it is a matter of defining what we mean by "centralization". I say, Mr. Chairman, that this country cannot exist without a strong central government. When I refer to a strong central government, I do not mean a central government that erodes and usurps provincial rights; I mean a strong central government that has the power to control what those rights are under our constitution. The only protection we have are the rights spelled out in the constitution; we have those rights in law. What is the danger in the future? As one hon. member has said, we are today making history; we, in this institution, are as important as were the Fathers of Confederation; because it is not the government of today or the government of tomorrow, but it is our sons, daughters and grandchildren who will have to live with a constitution that may have whittled away and eroded the powers of the central government.

So when the Leader of the Opposition said there appears to be a difference between the Fulton formula and the formula today, and the Minister of Transport says on the other hand that the Leader of the Opposition has misrepresented the facts, I say that the Minister of Transport admitted he was not a

constitutional lawyer and did not know too much about the British North America Act. I am not saying he was insincere in his remarks, but he failed to see the difference, and because of his failure to see that difference he accused the Leader of the Opposition of misrepresentation—

Miss LaMarsh: And lying.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Chairman, I heard the Minister of National Health and Welfare say I have lied. Is that what the Minister of National Health and Welfare just said?

Mr. Churchill: She won't answer.

Mr. Woolliams: I would ask the minister whether she said that. That is what I heard.

Miss LaMarsh: I did not say you were lying.

Mr. Woolliams: Did you say the Leader of the Opposition lied? Mr. Chairman, if the minister said the Leader of the Opposition lied, or I lied, I would ask the minister to withdraw those words.

Mr. Churchill: Withdraw.

The Chairman: Order. I might say that the Chair did not hear the remark.

Mr. Churchill: That does not matter.

Mr. Smallwood: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, as a member of this house—

The Chairman: Order. If the minister says she made no such remark, there is no point raising a point of order.

Mr. Mackasey: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the remarks the minister made were to me, and about an entirely different topic.

Mr. Churchill: Oh, come on now.

Mr. Mackasey: Unfortunately for the hon. member for Bow River, we have not found anything he has yet said sufficiently interesting to pay attention to. I apologize for that, and—

Mr. Smallwood: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, this is ridiculous, if it is the kind of behaviour going on in the House of Commons. The minister was not talking to the hon. member who has just spoken. She looked directly over to the hon. member who was speaking and said he lied. This is the kind of attitude adopted by hon. members opposite, and it is ridiculous in this House of Commons.