

Economic Forecast for Current Year

Honour in the kind of argument I could use and it was even suggested that I could not identify the documents.

Mr. Churchill: You didn't.

Mr. Pickersgill: Surely it is not germane to a discussion of this motion for an hon. member, above all the Minister of Justice, to get up and in his first phrase start imputing motives to other hon. members who are exercising their rights in the house.

Mr. Montgomery: Exactly what are you doing now?

Mr. Pickersgill: That is my point of order and it seems to me the hon. gentleman should be restricted.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot see anything derogatory in an hon. member saying of another hon. gentleman that in carrying on the debate he has tactics. It seems to me that imputes nothing immoral.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that my hon. friends would have been very angry with me indeed if I were to have said that they were completely without tactics, as devoid of tactics as they are of common sense, in bringing on this motion. That would really have annoyed them. I have not imputed motives. I will leave the analysis and conclusion as to motives to others when the facts are fully exposed and placed before them. Because I fully recognize and appreciate the rules of the house with regard to the imputation of motives I do not intend to impute motives.

I believe we are entitled to look at the situation which by their very words the members of the opposition have asked us to create in this house in bringing forward this motion.

For the moment may I leave aside altogether the question of whether there exists such a document as is asked for. It seems to me the statement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce has disposed of the motion itself and certainly should have disposed of the argument long ago when he said there is no such document that can be produced. Hon. members opposite insist that there is one. Somewhere, they feel sure, there should be such a document, that there must be one.

Mr. Pickersgill: There certainly should be.

Mr. Fulton: If there is, what is it? What would it be? It would be the latest written economic report made to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Hon. members of the house including Your Honour heard what was said by the hon. member for Essex East just a moment ago. As I understood him he included the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate in his

reference and indicated that that hon. member shared the same view; that is, as he said, that it was a mistake, and that it was an undesirable thing that such a document should be tabled. That is their view.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is the view we have always taken.

Mr. Fulton: It is their view that the document in question should not have been tabled back in 1959 when it was tabled in this house.

Mr. Pickersgill: In 1958.

Mr. Fulton: Hon. gentlemen opposite said it was a mistake and went on to use adjectives—I do not recall them all—indicating that they took a very poor view of that development. The hon. member went on to say that this represented a bad practice. Of course, we do not share their view with regard to the tabling of the document at that time under the circumstances in which it was tabled. It will be recalled that it was no longer current. I think the document at that time was approximately a year and three months or a year and six months old—

Mr. Pickersgill: Nine months.

Mr. Fulton: It was stated that it was our view that the document was no longer current and that the confidential nature of it which argued against its tabling when the report was first made no longer applied. But my hon. friends opposite do not accept that view. They say that that was a bad thing to have done.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Fulton: What are they now asking this house to do?

Mr. Pickersgill: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Fulton: Really, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Pickersgill: A question of privilege, Your Honour.

Mr. Fulton: I am sure Your Honour will assist me by not allowing the hon. member to interrupt.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, the minister is seeking to put words in my mouth.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member raises a question of privilege. Of course, if there is one, it is his duty to raise it when it arises.

Mr. Pickersgill: My question of privilege is this, Mr. Speaker. In this very restricted debate the minister is putting into my mouth words which I did not use at all. I based my whole argument on the Prime Minister's statement that the previous government had