

Interim Supply

have sought to treat it as though it were the equivalent of a motion to resolve the house into committee of supply. If they are right in that, then they must take the consequences.

Mr. Argue: The point of order the minister has raised is most ill-founded and illogical. The hon. gentleman merely said that the government by adopting this device—and it is only a device to meet a temporary condition—could choke off the possibility of hon. members moving the reduction of items in the estimates. I believe Your Honour had already ruled in a fair manner.

The minister changed his ground from this afternoon entirely. He said this afternoon you cannot move an amendment but now he says you cannot move to amend twice even though the second amendment has nothing to do with the first.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I did not say that this afternoon at all.

The Chairman: I do not consider it necessary for the hon. member to continue. I have accepted the validity of the arguments advanced by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate. I will therefore give the benefit of the doubt and rule it in order. Is the committee ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Argue: I can understand the impatience of my hon. friends opposite. Their tremendous majority makes them ill-tempered. They no longer wish to listen to hon. members. They want to babble like the trained seals the former leader of their party, Mr. George Drew, referred to in characterizing the Liberals when they were in office. They want to raise their voices in one loud chorus.

Mr. Graffey: Is the hon. member being sincere? I doubt it very much.

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Argue: The item should be reduced and deleted, in our submission. In view of the fact that the privy council has used its well-defined constitutional prerogative to set aside provincial legislation we ask that this vote be set aside as a means of protesting an interference with the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Canadian citizens resident in Newfoundland. We are protesting this vote not in the interests of trade unions as such or of any given organization.

An hon. Member: No, just for the sake of talking.

Mr. Argue: We do so in the belief that it should be the fundamental right of any Canadian citizen to band together with other citizens to associate in the organization of their

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

choice. This is all that was done in the case of the I.W.A. in Newfoundland.

Mr. McGrath: Why not pronounce it correctly?

Mr. Argue: I had an opportunity to visit Newfoundland not long ago. During the course of my visit my genial friend, the hon. member for St. John's East, and his family had me at their home for dinner and I enjoyed myself immensely. All I can say publicly is "thank you". I am sorry if in that short period of instruction I was not able to acquire the pronunciation that would allow me consistently to use the proper inflection that my hon. friend feels the name of this important Canadian province deserves.

Mr. McGrath: Thank you very much.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Chairman, the union that was concerned in the province of Newfoundland was established under the laws of that province. It was established legally. It was set up on the basis of having obtained a favourable vote, after which it was certified. The vote was favourable by 86.4 per cent of the membership—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, you dealt with this matter once. You ruled this type of speech out of order, and the hon. member completely ignores your ruling and goes right ahead making the speech. I ask you, Mr. Chairman, that the ruling which you have made, and which has not been challenged, should be adhered to.

Mr. Argue: I would point out, Mr. Chairman, if I may, that we had a very long discussion this afternoon during which many points of order were raised as to whether or not it was possible to discuss the question of unemployment. Your Honour ruled that a discussion on unemployment could not take place. However, the moment the motion to reduce the estimates had been placed before the committee Your Honour allowed that debate to proceed. The motion we have before the house is to the effect that the money available for these items should be reduced, and it is to that motion I am relating my remarks. I am endeavouring to show that the union in question, which had been decertified, was properly organized under the laws of the province of Newfoundland.

The Chairman: Order; I think the hon. member has completed his comments on the point of order. I ruled this afternoon that the rules of debate are the same on the amendment as on the motion itself. I said that it is correct to make general references, but the hon. member is dealing with one question and is dealing with it at length.