

Grants to Newfoundland

editor of the St. John's daily *News* who has been writing a series of articles on it. But I have lived with this for the last two years. The unconditional grants in 1956 and 1957 included the transitional grant and the tax rental agreement; it included the equalization grant, the stabilization grant and so forth. In 1956-57 the figure was \$17,838,000; in 1957-58, \$19,244,000; in 1958-59—prepare for a shock now, hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate—\$40,847,000; in 1959-60, \$36,587,000. These grants have been increased over 110 per cent in three years taking into account 1959-60. Does the hon. member want to insist that we set the standards in Newfoundland at the 1956-57 level?

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, let us come back to the transitional grants and those special grants that carry no return at all because the tax rental agreement brings a return into Canada. The transitional grant for 1956-57 was \$2,250,000. Remember I told you that the only free payment made by the Canadian government in 1956-57 to Newfoundland was \$2,250,000. For 1957-58 Newfoundland will get \$8 million, because it gets \$6,600,000 under the McNair report; in 1958-59, \$15,500,000; in 1959-60, \$15,500,000 plus the 3 per cent increase in the standard tax. So you see an increase from \$2,250,000 in 1956-57 to \$15,500,000 in 1959-60. Do you still want to go back to the standards of 1956-57?

The Leader of the Opposition criticized the Minister of Finance and said it was most unfair to justify a change in the recommendations by the argument that since union Newfoundland had also received a good deal of financial help from Ottawa along with the other Atlantic provinces. The Minister of Finance was not justifying anything; he was just stating facts, and he put all those facts on record in *Hansard* where they are mute but eloquent testimony of the assistance which Newfoundland has received from our government in the past two years, assistance far and away beyond anything which had been received from the previous government.

I think the Leader of the Opposition does not want to hear about all the things that this government has done for Newfoundland since it came to office. He does not like to hear what increased financial assistance has been provided.

Mr. Pearson: I want to hear about this bill.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): That's right. You want to get back to the 1956-57 standards of \$2,250,000. As far as Newfoundland is concerned, as far as Newfoundlanders are concerned and as far as constituents of Bonavista-Twillingate, of Burin-Burgeo and

[Mr. Browne (St. John's West).]

any other part of Newfoundland are concerned, it does not make any difference whether the money comes in under term 29 or whether it comes in under the Atlantic provinces adjustment act or whether it comes in in any of the different ways in which money has been flowing into the treasury of Newfoundland since we came to office. It makes no difference. My hon. friend the minister of health (Mr. Monteith) could say something about this. How much was the Newfoundland government getting from the federal government in respect of hospital insurance in 1956-57? Nothing. How much were they getting from the federal government in 1959-60 for hospital insurance; how much was any province getting before we came into office? Not a cent. How much is Newfoundland getting now? More than \$4 million, \$4.6 million, to be exact. Perhaps hon. members opposite do not like hearing about the increase in hospital insurance payments, the increases under the health grants, the increase in unemployment assistance, the increase in university grants—

Mr. Pearson: With 30 per cent unemployment, you needed an increase in unemployment assistance.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): —the increase in grants for picnic sites and access roads and so on—all money contributed by the federal government to the government of Newfoundland resulting in an improvement of services, and levels and standards of services in that province. All that money from whatever source it comes and into whatever department of government in Newfoundland it goes is used equally for the benefit of Newfoundland. Surely a contribution of over \$4 million to the department of health on account of the hospital insurance scheme constituting as it does, I believe, 71 per cent of the total cost of the insurance scheme in Newfoundland is something that should be known to the Leader of the Opposition and to all other members in this house as well as to people all over Newfoundland.

Mr. Pearson: We know all about it. It was Liberal legislation.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): It does not make any difference either if grants of a similar kind are made to other provinces as long as Newfoundland is getting its share. As I say, the Minister of Finance was not attempting to justify any change in the recommendations; he was just citing the facts.

Let us look at the total revenue which Newfoundland is receiving today. You will