

*Supply—Justice*

land should be no exception. When that duty has not been performed, Mr. Chairman, the whole nation has been betrayed.

Newfoundland is a province which has always lived and abided by the laws of the province and of the dominion. Pressure came from church, state and laity. Telegrams and letters were sent and telephone calls were made to Ottawa, but to no avail. It is unnecessary for me to take the time of the house to recall all the factors that led up to the chaos which threatened to destroy our province. If law and order cannot be maintained, then the freedom of Canadians becomes meaningless.

For a period the city of St. John's was left without sufficient police protection, and I shall now read some messages which will help the house to realize the tension which existed at the time. The president of the Newfoundland conference of the United Church of Canada sent an urgent message to the Minister of Justice which reads as follows:

St. John's practically deprived of police protection because of necessity of sending all available trained men to central Newfoundland where emergency conditions exist and are liable to erupt into further mob violence. This has arisen because of your failure to honour contract with government of Newfoundland to supply extra personnel to R.C.M.P. which is exclusively responsible for all police work outside St. John's. Only this afternoon news release discloses conditions look ugly at Grand Falls.

Having learned with consternation that board of evangelism and social service of our church at Toronto has requested your withholding sending reinforcements of R.C.M.P. to our province, the executive committee of the Newfoundland conference of the United Church is now meeting in emergency session and condemns this action which was taken by that board without full knowledge of situation in and your obligation to Newfoundland, and without consulting Newfoundland conference of the United Church of Canada as to facts, and urgently request of attorney general of Newfoundland that adequate police reinforcements be sent forthwith to maintain law and order, as reports indicate men are available and are being withheld on your instructions.

That powerful request came from Rev. Albert N. Holmes, president of the Newfoundland conference of the United Church of Canada. I have another message to illustrate the gravity of the situation. The following telegram was forwarded by his worship Mayor H. G. Mews of St. John's to the Minister of Justice:

I am informed officially that at least half of the police force required for the normal services in St. John's have been dispatched to central Newfoundland to assist R.C.M.P. in the maintenance of law and order pending the arrival of additional R.C.M.P. personnel.

Under these circumstances I am compelled to request that R.C.M.P. reinforcements be dispatched immediately to central Newfoundland in order that normal police services may be restored in St. John's.

[Mr. Johnson.]

We have heard appeals for help from the church and from the provincial council, and now a few brief words from a working Newfoundlander:

I am not a die-hard Liberal nor am I a Progressive Conservative, but an ordinary broad-minded citizen, with no axe to grind, always giving my privilege of voting an amount of thought.

The refusal of the federal government to comply with the request of Premier Smallwood to send additional R.C.M.P. to Newfoundland, and the attack by Prime Minister Diefenbaker on our premier, and the government, and the opposition has shocked many of us extremely. Mr. Diefenbaker certainly did not make any friends in Newfoundland by his recent statements.

I shall now read excerpts from a letter from a housewife:

We just came from the funeral of the late Constable William Moss. We are sick in Newfoundland, sick with sorrow, anger and sick with our representatives in the federal government, and with the mainland press. Surely you must have seen how right the premier was when the members of the opposition were with him all the way. Surely you must have seen how they were in accord to a man, because of their concern for Newfoundland.

We are a simple folk in Newfoundland, living in peace with our neighbours, with life in our small towns and villages centred closely around the church, and now these mainland reporters have told that they were refused sanctuary by two priests, one an Anglican, and the other a Roman Catholic.

Let us hope that on Monday you will stand to a man in the commons, and condemn the action of the federal government in not sending R.C.M.P. reinforcements; that you will condemn the mainland reporters for their lies; and that you will pledge your support to the provincial government in the step that they have taken. May it never be said that you helped to quench the small candle which has been lit in Newfoundland, and that you made denial to your own people. If you are tempted to take the easy way and say nothing, remember the boyish face of a rookie cop.

I think I have written pretty strongly, but I am only one woman who feels this way, there are thousands more like me. The women have been aroused, and feelings are running high. I have not always been with the premier, but now I back him all the way, and 98 per cent of Newfoundland with me.

What really happened when the minister refused to send extra police assistance? Police had to be sent anyway, and who suffered? Not only the area directly concerned, but the city of St. John's and the immediate area. Reinforcements were sent from St. John's following the refusal of the Minister of Justice, who has taken full responsibility for withholding extra police assistance.

Yesterday the minister referred to the fact that no further violence had taken place. He credited it to the fact that reinforcements had not been sent. The minister used this as evidence of his wisdom in