

Borrowing Authority Act

An hon. Member: They made the right choice.

Mr. Tobin: I think it is worth pointing out, at this historic time in our history when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the premiers are seeking to renew the national commitment to confederation and the national commitment to Canada, which collectively is much greater than its individual parts, that at 25 years of age I am the only Newfoundland member of Parliament who was born a Canadian. I am proud of that. I am proud to be a Canadian, but my sense of loyalty and pride in Canada is no greater than that felt by all those people in Newfoundland who became Canadians by way of a democratic vote in 1949. The people of Newfoundland and Labrador look forward to repatriation of the constitution quickly. They look to our first ministers to recommit themselves to confederation. Any Newfoundlander who would suggest otherwise is a spokesman divorced from his people; let there be no question of that.

While we in Newfoundland and Labrador were certainly the last to join this great confederation of people, we will be among the first to stand up and voice our support for Canada should we be given that opportunity. We are proud to be recognized for our unique music, tradition and history. Also we are proud to be recognized as just over a half million of Canada's best Canadians.

In the year 1949, the year Newfoundland joined confederation, five years before I was born, a great Canadian addressed this House of Commons. His words of warning then are more relevant this day than ever before. I should like to quote from *Hansard* of February 15, 1949, which reads as follows:

In the country today, and I am not referring to anything that has been said in this debate, there is I suggest a tendency, a very dangerous tendency in my view, to stir up the feeling that the provinces and the dominion are somehow and in some way hostile to each other; that the people of Canada as represented in this Parliament are in some way different from the people of Canada as represented in the provincial parliaments; that there is, for instance, some inevitable conflict between my duty and loyalty as a resident of this province and my duty and loyalty as a Canadian. I suggest that there is great danger to national development in that trend and in that sort of talk.

Those words of wisdom were spoken by the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson on February 15, 1949, and I think they are very relevant today. Mr. Pearson went on to quote Mr. Drew, the leader of the opposition in 1941, who said:

The time has come to start thinking as Canadians. Those who deliberately seek to arouse province against province, race against race are disloyal to Canada—

I want to say a few words about Bill C-30, but first I hope Mr. Speaker will permit me to talk for just a moment about that part of Canada that is Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe. It stretches from Cape Norman on the Strait of Belle Isle in northern Newfoundland, all the way down the west coast to Cape St. George, St. Georges Bay. It is a rural, rugged and beautiful coastline along which some 85,000 people earn their living and make their homes. It is that part of Newfoundland which those of us who live there refer to as God's country.

● (1600)

To the north in my riding, one will find Gros Morne National Park, a mountainous land of almost untouched and unspoiled beauty. I would recommend that you, Mr. Speaker, and all hon. members present visit that national park and meet the people who live in the communities within the boundaries of that park. I see the minister for parks shaking his head.

Farther north, hon. members will find the many fishing communities of the great northern peninsula and the fierce, independent, hard-working people who make their living from the sea. They are proud Newfoundlanders and proud Canadians, as are the people of the Port au Port Peninsula. There too, one will find a thriving and growing fishing industry. It is also there that one would delight in finding the only French-speaking communities in all of Newfoundland.

Should you visit my riding, Mr. Speaker, no doubt you will want to visit the beautiful Bay of Islands area and meet and talk with my many friends there. From the Bay of Islands, one will find that he is just minutes away from the city of Corner Brook, the western capital of Newfoundland. Corner Brook is located at the mouth of the Humber River where the west coast city began in the 1920s and has grown ever since. Bowater's paper mill in Corner Brook is one of the largest in the world, and Bowater Newfoundland Limited, as a result, is the largest single private employer in Newfoundland. It is in Corner Brook where the importance of Newfoundland's forestry resource can be fully appreciated. Indeed, there is no doubt that our fishing and forestry resources are the backbone of the economy of, not only Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe, but all of Newfoundland.

Also in my riding, Mr. Speaker, you will find the two airport towns of Deer Lake and Stephenville. Both of these towns look forward to continuing to service the air travelling public in the northern and southern extremes of my riding. Deer Lake and Stephenville are small towns, but they have a great deal in common, as they are a people determined to go forward, seeking to maintain stability and a sound economic base for future growth.

There are many more communities I would like to talk about; however, time does not permit. I am proud of the district and of the people I represent in this House. I have great confidence in the future of Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe and, more importantly, the people of Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe have great confidence in themselves. I shall work to secure assistance from the Government of Canada, as much as is reasonable, and we are a reasonable people. I will seek to secure assistance that will ensure the people of my riding are given every opportunity to grow and prosper.

It is time for me to turn my thoughts and remarks to the business at hand, Bill C-30. I would like to voice my support for the approval of the \$12 billion supplementary borrowing authority. But first let me take just a moment to comment on some remarks made by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), who has taken the liberty of referring to the Prime Minister as "the Count Dracula of the Canadian economic system". I think that one could better equate the efforts