

Financial Assistance to Newfoundland

good will of the people of Canada with regard to this particular term, it will be \$8 million from now until, say, the year 2100, regardless of whether the dollar goes down to a relative value, say, of 10 cents, in which case Newfoundland would, of course, be the loser.

My primary concern is to introduce into this arrangement a sufficient degree of flexibility. With all possible respect to the people of Newfoundland and the minister in advocating this, I fear he is introducing a negative degree of inflexibility, something which the government of the day, a previous administration, was unwilling to recognize. This is what bothers me.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think I can answer that very simply. I would have been happier, of course, had a higher sum been recommended or if escalation had been recommended, but the royal commission did not recommend that. We appointed a competent commission, that is, the St. Laurent government did. The finding in this respect was not happily received. Mr. Smallwood thought the amount was much too small. But this is what the commission said, and this is what the Terms of Union said.

The statutory sums of all the other provinces are stated in dollars. There is no escalation for them. I am asking only justice for Newfoundland; I am not asking a special escalation for their constitutional subsidies which other provinces do not have. It seems to me that beyond this \$8 million they should take their chance with tax arrangements, just as all the other provinces do.

This is regarded by every Newfoundlander as part of the constitution. It is part of the constitution—term 29 of the Terms of the Union, which are part of the British North America Act—and it is on this basis we are recommending it in this way.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Winch: I desire to speak on this resolution and I would call it ten o'clock.

Mr. Pickersgill: Since the resolution and the bill are so very similar, would hon. members consider passing the resolution, which only says it is expedient to introduce a bill and does not commit anyone to the principle of the bill, and have the rest of the debate on the bill itself, so that we would have the bill in front of us?

[Mr. Lambert.]

Mr. Monteith: I think the hon. member for Edmonton West gave a very reasoned statement as far as he was concerned.

Mr. Winch: On a point of order. Before the hon. member rose I said I desired to speak on the resolution and called it ten o'clock.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McIlraith: Tomorrow we will bring forward for the consideration of the house item 5 on today's order paper, second reading of a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund for the economic and social development of special rural development areas. Then, from the budget resolutions, we will take the one relating to tariffs—but only that one. We would then turn to item 47 on today's order paper, second reading of the collective bargaining bill for the public service; and item 51, the resolution dealing with the measure to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act, and the various other superannuation acts.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

EDUCATION—CONDITIONS GOVERNING FREE UNIVERSITY TRAINING

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday last I asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) the following question:

In view of the minister's statement within the last day or so in Halifax that lack of education is the most important of the causes of poverty and that free university education may become necessary, will the minister say how the government proposes to determine the extent of poverty necessary before a policy to make free university education possible can be provided?

My question was rejected by Mr. Speaker as being argumentative. I am sorry, indeed, if this is the case because I know the minister is deeply interested in education. He comes from a part of Canada and a stock of people who have always been deeply interested in education, even to the point of sacrificing practically everything else in order to get it.