

me and mould me all over again, or sit me down. My style of speaking is to say a thing once and then repeat in a different way, and then say it a third time in a rather different way again, and I think I have succeeded in making myself understood to the people of Newfoundland, to whom, and not this Convention, I am talking.

Mr. Chairman I beg your pardon Mr. Smallwood, while you are speaking in this House you are addressing the Chair. I am not concerned at all with how people listen to the speeches all over Newfoundland. There has been too much of that altogether. You are talking to the Chair in the first place, and I am not going to be concerned by the probable reaction of the public of Newfoundland to any ruling I may be called upon to make....

In fairness to you, Mr. Smallwood, I want to say this: that if you persist in repeating, then it may very well be that you are running the risk that I will have to hold that you are indulging in tedious repetition and are therefore out of order. As to the alternative of destroying you or any other individual here, I don't think I need make any comment on that. But if you persist as you have been going, I will have to ask you to avoid as nearly as possible, if you will, repeatedly stating the same thing, even though you do say it in a different form.

Mr. Smallwood May I ask, in connection with the words "tedious repetition", does that refer to repeating a certain fact over and over and then making the statement again in different ways? Does it mean repeating the same topic over and over, or does it refer to describing that topic over and over?

Mr. Chairman If the statements made by you are substantially the same, whether the verbiage employed, or phraseology employed may be slightly different in each case or not, if you are repeating yourself to the point where it is becoming tedious to the Chair, then, if any member raises that point of order, I will have to rule that this tedious repetition is out of order.

Mr. Smallwood I take it that I will have the same right to speak on any matter as any other member of the House?

Mr. Chairman I don't know if you realise the implications contained in your remark. I am not making one rule for you and another rule for other members. I am endeavouring to be perfectly fair

with everyone alike, however far short I may fall of my objective. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Smallwood, you need not single yourself out at all. To the best of my ability I intend to be absolutely impartial and fair to everyone.

Mr. Smallwood I was not imputing, what I was inquiring was this: who decides whether a debate has become tedious, is it the Chairman, or any member who wishes to object?

Mr. Chairman In the final analysis I have to decide whether it is tedious repetition or not. Mr. Higgins has taken the objection, and I think the objection is well taken.

Mr. Smallwood In my first reply to Mr. Hollett I was prevented from continuing because at that time we lacked a quorum.

Mr. Chairman It is not necessary to bring that up again, Mr. Smallwood.

Mr. Smallwood On the last day we met Mr. Hollett read out certain items. Is there anything improper in that, sir?

Mr. Chairman There is no good to be served.

Mr. Smallwood The question is not as to what good is to be derived or not.

Mr. Chairman Let us get down to the case and forget what has happened previously. What went on in 1947 is water under the dam. It is over and done with, and let us not refer to it again. A remark of that kind is only calculated to reflect on everybody in this chamber and the Chair included. Therefore I must ask you now, please, and this is the second time you have done it, don't refer again to what happened here on the 12th day of December.

Mr. Smallwood Is that an order, sir? Is that a ruling? Can't I mention that?

Mr. Chairman I am ruling that the events, and I do rule here now, that the events which transpired on Friday, December 12th last have absolutely no relevancy to this debate and are not to be mentioned again.

Mr. Higgins We are trying to keep a quorum here now, sir. That is why I intervened, and that is the only reason you had no quorum on the 12th.

Mr. Smallwood May I object to that? I had been speaking ten or 12 minutes on the 12th when I had to stop because there was no quorum.

Mr. Chairman Let us please not concern ourselves in retrospect with these matters. Let us kindly get on, in the name of honesty and decency, with the job we are doing. Let us forget what