

Newfoundland

Mr. Cockeram: I do not have to.

Mr. Abbott: I am aware of the special interest which he has in the matter. I shall take his question as notice and see whether I can give him an answer at an early day.

Mr. Cockeram: The minister is always frivolous in his replies to questions.

NEWFOUNDLAND**APPROVAL OF TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA**

The house resumed from Tuesday, February 8, consideration in committee of Bill No. 11, to approve the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada—Mr. St. Laurent—Mr. Golding in the chair.

On section 22—*Fisheries*.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Chairman, before proceeding further with this section may I make a brief statement. The information I gave the committee last night about the recommendation I had received as to the distribution of posts of senators for the island of Newfoundland has created some uneasiness there. I said it had been represented to us that there were three main groups of the population, divided according to religious denominations among Anglican, Roman Catholic and adherents of the United church. That has been taken to mean that it would exclude the possibility of anyone not belonging to those three denominations being considered for a Senate appointment. That is not at all what I meant, nor was it the real meaning of the recommendation made to us.

The recommendation made was that there were these three groups, namely the Anglicans, the Roman Catholics, the members of the United church and adherents of other denominations not forming part of the United church. The high commissioner reported that my statement might create a false impression and I feel it is desirable to have any false impression corrected. So I wish to say that those recommendations did comprise in the group described as the United church group the adherents of the United church, and members of other denominations being neither Anglican nor Roman Catholic, and that would include Presbyterians, adherents of the Salvation Army and other denominations.

Mr. Graydon: Do not forget the Baptists.

Mr. St. Laurent: I understand there are a few Baptists there, but that they have not yet established any denominational schools. The information given to me was that there were Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and others, most of whom belonged to the United church. But

[Mr. Abbott.]

it was not intended that anyone would be excluded from consideration because of his religious views.

Mr. Knowles: So long as he is a Liberal.

Mr. Gillis: I did not think we would ever reach the point when the House of Commons would discuss appointments to the other place, or anywhere else, on sectarian grounds. However, that is not the point I had in mind when rising.

We are dealing with section 22 of Bill No. 11, dealing with fisheries. I consider the subject matter now under discussion one of great importance to the whole fishing industry of Canada, because the provisions of this bill could affect that industry in the wrong way.

It seems to me that at this time it would be necessary for the Minister of Fisheries to give us a comprehensive statement about the whole industry. For example, according to a press dispatch it was stated that a fisheries treaty was to be signed within a few days. That procedure took place in the United States. I understand eleven countries were represented, that Canada and Newfoundland are part of the set-up, and that this particular treaty deals with research. We are acting together in that field.

In Quebec and the maritime provinces fishing can be considered as one of the basic industries. I notice that section 22(2) states:

Subject to this term, all fisheries laws and all orders, rules, and regulations made thereunder shall continue in force in the province of Newfoundland as if the union had not been made, for a period of five years from the date of union and thereafter until the parliament of Canada otherwise provides, and shall continue to be administered by the Newfoundland fisheries board; and the costs involved in the maintenance of the board and the administration of the fisheries laws shall be borne by the government of Canada.

While I am not sure of the accuracy of my information, I am informed that the fisheries board which regulates marketing in Newfoundland is representative of the fish dealers only, and that the industry is not represented thereon. I am further advised that the commission of government as such has no representatives on the board. If that kind of marketing arrangement is to continue for five years in Newfoundland, I think it is wrong. If my information is incorrect, I would ask the minister to give the correct information. If what I say is the fact, then surely this section should be rewritten.

My greatest concern, and the point about which I wish to be most specific, is the bounty now paid maritime fishermen. This is a fixed amount. If Newfoundland is now to be included in the bounty arrangement—and it would seem that it is—the result would be a reduction in the amount of money paid to