

get out of it altogether, we would be better off and have a chance of peace and security. ERP or the Marshall plan is just a blueprint. As the Archbishop of Canterbury said the other day in England, he was greatly disappointed in Lake Success and the way the empire had been dissolved. I quoted his remarks in the house the other night and I will not do so again.

I am absolutely opposed to the policy of this government on foreign affairs. I believe that this item should be reduced to reasonable proportions, to about \$1,000,000 a year. That would be plenty to spend on such agencies as are now proposed, because you have no foreign policy except the UNO. That is the cornerstone of it. What has the UNO done? It has just dissolved the whole British empire. They want us to give up our bases on the seven seas. If we do so, you know what will happen. We shall have the enemy out here. Owing to this league of nations, we lost two of our great allies in the first war. In the second war you have lost one of them already. I can tell you this, that if you just keep on pretending for another year we shall be just as close to war as we were in 1939, when the second war broke out.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I believe I had the floor, but I took my seat to allow the hon. member to ask a question—and with the result the committee has seen. However I am quite willing to sit down again if the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario wishes to ask a question—because I hope it will be a question.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): It will be a question, and one in regard to Newfoundland—which I take it we can now return to. I wish to ask this question on the point made by the minister as to the constitutional position. I understand that position clearly, and I would ask another question, which, it seems to me, is relevant.

Supposing in fact that the constitutional requirements the minister has outlined are complied with, but that nevertheless we know there is a strong minority—perhaps almost half the people in Newfoundland—who are opposed to any union with us; in the minister's opinion would that be a matter of indifference to us?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No, I do not think it would be a matter of indifference to us. But we have made an offer to the constituted authorities of Newfoundland, and I do not think we could back away from that offer if the constituted authorities came to us and said, "The majority in Newfoundland want confederation." Of course this parliament might be disposed to say there is not

[Mr. Church.]

such a decisive majority, in spite of the statement made by the constituted authorities, as would require or justify the carrying out of the offer we made.

My own personal view with respect to these negotiations has been that it would be a serious responsibility to do or say anything which would prevent the entry of Newfoundland into Canada. I may be an optimist, but I do believe that the Canadian nation is destined to occupy an important place in world affairs. I do believe, further, that that place in world affairs would be better preserved by a territory which extended right out to the broad ocean and if access thereto was not closed to Canada by another sovereignty over the territories of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Because of that attitude, we made offers which would involve quite costly requirements from the Canadian people at the present time. But I think we would have been remiss in our duty to future generations of Canadians not to have done so. That offer having been made, if there is a desire on the part of the people of Newfoundland to accept it, I think the government will be disposed to recommend to parliament that it be implemented.

It might be that there would come about in Newfoundland a division of opinion that would show that the time was not ripe for union to take place, and that it would not be easy to have it work satisfactorily in what would then be a new province. That is something which I hope we shall not have to face, and about which I would prefer not to have to express any views, unless we do have to face it. I hope there will be a clear-cut decision in this second vote. I hope it will not be so close as to leave us in the embarrassing position of having to take in a large group of recalcitrants, or having to renounce the opportunity of completing what the fathers of confederation originally intended.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): One further supplementary question, if I may. I did not understand the minister to say—at least I hope I did not—that by our action we have put it beyond our power to go back if, in fact, there is now a legal acceptance, legally given to Newfoundland, but with a strong and large dissenting minority.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That matter would be one which would have to be faced in a statesmanlike manner by the authorities in the United Kingdom and those in Canada. They are the ones who have legal jurisdiction. I am reminded of the view I expressed about demo-