

*Newfoundland*

thing, but by the method and in the manner indicated in their amendment. Bear in mind that whatever must be done is to be done by March 31.

Take a quick glance at the record thus far. The government of the day has negotiated with representatives of Newfoundland an agreement under which Newfoundland will enter the Canadian confederation and become the tenth province. The government comes to this House of Commons and recommends that agreement. All last week we in this chamber debated the terms of union. Speeches were made by Conservatives as well as others; and without exception the right hand of Canadian brotherhood was extended to the people of Newfoundland. There was no indication last week that any of these expressions of good will were not genuine. The Tories seemed to be sincere. If they had a dagger for the agreement, they had it well hidden beneath their cloaks. Yes, it looked as if they wanted Newfoundland to come in. No person put forward any objection to the terms which were proposed and which were settled in this agreement.

All that time, it was understood by every person that every step must be completed by March 31. March 31 was actually to be the date of Newfoundland's crossing the threshold into the house of Canadian confederation. On the basis of last week's debate, not merely every person in this house but every person across Canada and every person in Newfoundland must have felt that the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, on the terms which had been worked out in the agreement, was acceptable all round; indeed, that it was warmly welcomed by all parties and by practically every member in the house. It is important that all people should know that when the debate was going on last week, each member in this chamber, and every Tory who spoke, particularly the Tory leader, knew quite well what the next stage in these proceedings was to be.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, I have no intention at all of interrupting the irresponsible statements of this hon. member.

**An hon. Member:** You cannot take it.

**Mr. Drew:** I point out, however, that the motion to forward this act to the government of the United Kingdom—

**Mr. Brunelle:** What is this? Is it a point of order?

**Mr. Drew:** —was not placed on the order paper until Thursday, and at that time the debate on second reading had been fully before this house.

[Mr. Maybank.]

**Mr. Maybank:** Mr. Speaker, the statement the hon. gentleman has made is not true. You will bear in mind that I have not attacked his veracity.

**Mr. Jackman:** It does not make any difference. Retract it.

**Mr. Maybank:** I will prove it.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, I rise—

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Drew:** I ask that the member withdraw that statement.

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask hon. members to bear in mind that the member who has the floor should not be interrupted without his permission. If an hon. member wishes to rise to a question of privilege, it is his right to do so. But he should state what his question of privilege is.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, on the formality of a question of privilege, I ask your ruling as to whether in this house it is proper for a member to say that a statement made by another member is not true.

**Mr. Abbott:** It is a question of fact.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would suggest that the hon. member modify his expression.

**Some hon. Members:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Abbott:** It is a statement of fact.

**Mr. Maybank:** Hon. gentlemen who call out "withdraw" and who would not be satisfied with a modification of what I have said need not disturb themselves. My intentions are quite different from any diluting of anything that I have thus far said. I wish to deal—

**Mr. Jackman:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Maybank:** I wish to deal for just a moment with this question of order. There is no occasion for me to withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will not stand for the reflection which has just been made by an hon. member to my left, if I understood him correctly. He said that I am tolerating something from one side of the house that I would not from the other. I would ask hon. members to be generous enough to listen to the hon. member who has the floor. Actually some hon. members have asked me to be very severe with the hon. member who has the floor. If I had been as severe yesterday as some members suggest I should be today I would have asked many hon. members to withdraw what they had said.