

Newfoundland

which was not founded on fact. I have drawn it to your attention. I thought the hon. gentleman would be glad to know it.

(Translation):

Mr. Harit: You did not quote his words; you expressed an opinion.

Mr. LaCroix: However that may be, Mr. Speaker, I wish to give the hon. member an opportunity to show whether he is or is not in favour of the word "consenting", because I shall have the honour to move an amendment to the amendment . . .

(Text):

Mr. Hackett: Mr. Speaker, I must ask for a ruling.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think the hon. member should insist upon the word being withdrawn. If the hon. member, during the course of his remarks, said that the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett) used the word "consent" when the hon. member for Stanstead did not use that word, I am sure the hon. member who has the floor will make a correction.

(Translation):

Mr. LaCroix: I was under the impression that the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett) had used the word "consent".

Mr. Hackett: I am not complaining at all about that.

Mr. LaCroix: Then the matter is settled.

Mr. Hackett: If a false impression was given, I am not to blame. False impressions crop up everywhere.

Mr. Gagnon: Quite true.

Mr. LaCroix: Besides, it squares with Progressive Conservative policies.

Mr. Lesage: It is consistent with Progressive Conservative policies to leave people everywhere under a false impression.

Mr. Gagnon: They did not give a false impression in Nicolet.

Mr. LaCroix: I am speaking to the Progressive Conservatives. It looks to me as if the hon. member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Gagnon) belongs to that group.

Mr. Langlois: That we know.

Mr. Gagnon: Any group rather than that of the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency.

Mr. LaCroix: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted, at this stage of my remarks, to move, seconded by the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot):

That the words "after they will have given their consent" be substituted for the words "upon a satisfactory conclusion of such consultation" in the last paragraph of the amendment.

[Mr. Hackett.]

Mr. Speaker: Mr. LaCroix moves, seconded by Mr. Pouliot:

That the words "after they will have given their consent" be substituted for the words "upon a satisfactory conclusion of such consultation" in the last paragraph of the amendment.

Mr. Low: Could you translate it into English please?

Mr. LaCroix: Mr. Speaker, I cannot admit either . . .

(Text):

Mr. Low: Mr. Speaker, could we have that amendment translated into English so that we can all understand it?

Mr. Speaker: I will have the translation made in a few moments, at which time it will be repeated to the house.

(Translation):

Mr. LaCroix: Mr. Speaker, I cannot share, either, the view expounded by the leader of the C.C.F. (Mr. Coldwell) who holds that whenever a national issue is involved we are entitled to change the constitution without consulting the provinces.

The adoption of this view would lead us very far indeed. There is no telling what we would see if the C.C.F. party, to our great misfortune, ever came to power. This would be true especially of a minority like ours which seeks to conserve its French and Catholic traditions, on the banks of the great and beautiful river which bears the Prime Minister's name, and which considers itself, and rightly so, as the last outpost of French thought and culture on the North American continent.

I do not share the opinion of those who claim that the province of Quebec need not be consulted with regard to the annexation of Newfoundland.

The province of Quebec has too many interests in this respect to allow itself to be totally neglected. What about the borders between Labrador and Quebec, which are not yet clearly defined? That is a question of vital interest to my province, because of the great natural resources which lie in that part of the country.

We must also consider the fact that Great Britain deprived Quebec, by means of an award by the privy council, of all that part of my province which is called Labrador, which I still consider part of the province of Quebec, but this was done by England in order to confer an asset upon Newfoundland in anticipation of her future negotiations concerning union with Canada.

In view of the violent attacks of the C.C.F. party, which favours extreme centralization, and of the fact that Quebec is deeply concerned over the question of natural resources, and because of my own convictions, after the