

Newfoundland

have a profound effect upon transportation in and out of Newfoundland by this means of communication.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD**FILMING OF NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING PROJECT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peiherborough West): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, following his statement with regard to the national capital project. On what authority has the national film board, as reported in the press, spent \$13,000 or \$14,000 on filming the capital planning when this planning is not even completed, according to the Prime Minister?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I will look at the hon. member's question and ascertain whether or not there is any foundation for the press reports to which he refers.

NEWFOUNDLAND**TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA—ADDRESS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING**

The house resumed from Tuesday, February 15, consideration of the motion of Mr. St. Laurent for an address to His Majesty the King respecting the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada.

Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King (Glen-garry): I should not like the debate on this resolution to conclude, Mr. Speaker, without saying how greatly pleased and grateful I am to have the opportunity of joining with my fellow members of this House of Commons in the concluding stages of the necessary steps to be taken to bring Newfoundland into confederation. When the resolution is adopted, this House of Commons will have taken, so far as its authority extends, the last necessary step to effect the union of Newfoundland with Canada.

As you, Mr. Speaker, will recall, on Friday afternoon last the Prime Minister indicated that there were some hon. members who would wish to speak on the terms of union but who were not present at the time, and that an opportunity would be given them to speak on this motion. It was the desire, I think, of all who were present that the third reading should be carried on Friday afternoon, and it was so carried, after but one hon. member had spoken.

In my remarks this afternoon, which will be brief, I hope no exception will be taken to my referring to the debate on the terms of union as approved by this house. In other words, I do not wish to be held too strictly

[Mr. Drew.]

to speaking solely on the matter of procedure, which is the one dealt with in the resolution.

I count myself as very fortunate in having had the privilege, as head of the government at the time, of welcoming to Ottawa in the name of Canada the delegation from the national convention of Newfoundland, headed by the Hon. Mr. Bradley, which came to Ottawa to consider and discuss with representatives of our government whether there was a fair and generally acceptable basis for federal union with Canada. The delegation had its first meeting with representatives of our government on June 25, 1947. That was the beginning of the conversations which led to the negotiations that resulted in a basis of union since drafted into an agreement that has met with the approval of hon. members. It was also my privilege to have shared with some of my former colleagues in some of the other proceedings which led up to that agreement.

The basis of union having been firmly established, and the terms of agreement having been approved by this house I should like to take the earliest opportunity of warmly congratulating the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and his colleagues, who carried on the subsequent conferences with representatives of Newfoundland, on the successful manner in which they have carried through the negotiations. Their task was not an easy one. It required on all sides a good deal in the way of tact, judgment and patience. It speaks well for the representatives of Newfoundland and the representatives of Canada that in the time at their disposal it was possible for them to reach an agreement which has since commended itself so favourably to hon. members of all parties in this house.

I should like to say a special word about the Prime Minister's contribution to the success of the working out of the terms of the agreement. I happen to know something of the zeal which he showed in upholding the cause of union. From the very beginning he made the cause of union his own. He spared neither time, energy, nor aught of his great abilities in seeking to bring about the happy result which in this house we are rejoicing over today.

May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, as the oldest member of this House of Commons—I hasten to say, not oldest in years, but in years of membership in this house—to congratulate hon. members collectively on the quality, yes, the excellence of the debate which took place on the terms of union. The debate, naturally, was one of the memorable debates in the annals of our country's history. It is bound to be so regarded, it will be so regarded, since it marks one of the significant milestones in Canada's development. It was