

from any comments. Kindly take your seats. A word is known by the company it keeps, and if there is, on this discussion of the Economic Report, any reference whatsoever to the political situation to be superimposed upon the economy of this country it is definitely out of order. We are engaged at the present time in determining what the economic potentialities of the country are.... Let us confine ourselves to the Economic Report and I think no words will go wrong if we avoid any reference whatsoever to the institutions.

Mr. Miller Point of order again, sir. I would like to be very clear whether or not we are to be permitted to refer in our economic deliberations to the program of reconstruction that has been carried out by the Commission of Government. Is that out of order?

Mr. Chairman No, that's definitely an economic matter.

Mr. Miller Well, it is a question of government.

Mr. Chairman It is not a question of government at all.... Reconstruction undertaken by any government is one thing, and must not be confused with reference to the government that undertakes that policy of reconstruction, which is something entirely different.

Mr. Hollett Still on that point of order which has been raised. I agree with Mr. Miller, at least I don't know if I agree, but I am in doubt as to just how far a person can go in debate on this particular point.

Mr. Chairman I am not going to speculate. If you don't mind I will deal with any remarks, if there are any made in the chamber. If a remark is made by any member, and if it is taken exception to by any other member rising to a point of order, then all I could say at this time, Mr. Hollett, is that I will deal with it then. I can't be asked to generalise at this time.

Mr. Watton I am sorry that I created all that discussion, but may I proceed?

Mr. Chairman Yes, please do, Mr. Watton.

Mr. Hollett Point of order. I was about to make an observation. Am I not to be allowed to make a simple observation? I was going to draw your attention sir, to one of the concluding paragraphs in the address given by the late Chairman, Mr. Bradley, when they arrived in Ottawa, wherein he stated that the basic economy of this country was sound, provided we could get the government.

Mr. Smallwood I rise to a point of order. Mr. Hollett is referring to something not said in this chamber, but in Ottawa. What's this got to do with this debate?

Mr. Chairman I must sustain that. I am not concerned with any observations made by any member outside this chamber. I am simply concerned with any remarks which may be addressed by any member on this Economic Report. What Mr. Bradley said in Ottawa, or any other place, is a matter of complete indifference to me at this time.

Mr. Watton Again I ask if I may proceed?

Mr. Chairman Please do, Mr. Watton.

Mr. Watton What I am going to say now is contained in this report.... Speaking about the United States and our fishing industry, I believe, as the report states, that the American government and people will give serious and sympathetic consideration to any representation made by this country, if it was run by a duly and properly constituted government (that's in the report, Mr. Chairman).

Mr. Chairman What part of the report are you quoting from? If members would only quote the part of the report on which they wish to base their observations....

Mr. WattonPage 27, last paragraph:

We are of the definite view that if proper representations were now made, by a properly constituted government of Newfoundland, that the American government as well as the American people whom we consider fair and just, would certainly seriously consider giving Newfoundland some favourable tariff concessions for our fishery products.

Mr. Chairman Now the observations on that portion of the report, Mr. Watton. You were about to make one?

Mr. Watton I agree with that. That's all I want to say about it — I agree with it. I could go on to some length regarding the fisheries, but it has been dealt with very competently by other speakers. But what I want to express is that I do agree with the Report of the Finance Committee on our economic position, in their review of our fisheries, past, present and future. That's what I want to get across, Mr. Chairman....

I can see nothing in the future of our principal industries to give me cause for gloom and despair. It is to these major industries that we.