

## Newfoundland

**Mr. Grant:** Read what it says about a poll tax.

**Mr. Drew:** I am quite prepared to wait.

**Mr. Grant:** Read what it says about a poll tax.

**Mr. Claxton:** I rise to a question of privilege. I never said that the question of a contribution was not discussed, because it was implicit and it was stated right from the start. The question of a poll tax was never discussed.

**Mr. Grant:** Read about the poll tax.

**Mr. Drew:** This is what I said in the presence of the minister on the occasion we are discussing.

But the fact is that \$12 is the figure that was discussed—

Remember that this was at the April-May meeting. I continue:

But the fact is that \$12 is the figure that was discussed at the January meeting and at the November meeting in the case of Ontario because it was pointed out then by the government of Ontario that the dominion's proposals would impose upon Ontario an added expense of \$50 million outside of what the dominion was going to pay for these new health and social insurance proposals. If the poll tax was to take care of that—and that was suggested on page 32 of the dominion government's proposals as something to be incorporated in the agreement—in the case of Ontario the poll tax would have to be \$12.

That was the statement then. It was not challenged, and it cannot be challenged now.

**Mr. Claxton:** Mr. Chairman, I must say that at page 435 of the proceedings it was challenged then and it is challenged now. What the leader of the opposition did was to divide the province's share of a contribution that would be needed to pay for health insurance, in the case of Ontario, by the population of Ontario and say that the individuals of Ontario had to pay it and it was a poll tax.

**Mr. Drew:** Certainly it was.

**Mr. Claxton:** Every other province figured that the provinces should make some contribution as well.

**Mr. Drew:** The same babbling brook of misinformation.

**Mr. Knowles:** Could we come down to date and discuss old age pensions and other matters in which the people of Newfoundland and the people of Canada are interested now. Following the discussion that has taken place, there is just one question I should like to ask. I have asked questions of the government and I have not been satisfied with the answers. I now want to ask one question of the leader

of the opposition. Does he not think that the people of Canada would welcome the opportunity to pay contributions, even up to the figures he has suggested, if in return for them we could have old age pensions at seventy without a means test, health insurance and over-all social security?

**Mr. Drew:** I am very glad to answer that. If the hon. member who has just spoken had been present at the conference, as the minister was, he would have known that we recommended old age pensions at sixty-five, without a means test, and that our present recommendation is \$40 a month.

**Mr. Claxton:** And a reduction of taxation at the same time.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, the leader of the opposition—

**The Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Reid:** He is ducking that question.

**Mr. Knowles:** The leader of the opposition is no better than the ministers on the other side at answering questions. I did not ask what is in the Tory platform now, any more than I have taken time now to tell what is in the C.C.F. platform. I asked him this question: Does he not think that the people of Canada would welcome an opportunity to make contributions towards a proper over-all social security plan?

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to deal with this on the political level put forward by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**Mr. Knowles:** On a point of order—

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Drew:** But the hon. member probably misunderstood what was said. I was referring to the proposal of the Ontario government put before the conference that met in 1945. That was when we put the proposal forward in regard to old age pensions. This is not something new.

**Mr. Knowles:** Apparently I cannot expect an answer from the leader of the opposition. He is not prepared to stand in this house and say that he knows the people of Canada would welcome an opportunity to make such contributions, apparently because he played his part in scuttling that kind of a program in 1945.

**Mr. Drew:** I will deal with this now, because I regret to say that this is the first time this particular hon. member has used the technique of the socialist party of making unfounded charges of that kind.