

Thursday, 8 Oct 62

Ladies and gentlemen:

I am going to make an important announcement in this talk tonight, but before I do so there are some things that I would like to discuss with you. After I shall have discussed these things you will see how logical and necessary my announcement is.

First of all I want to make a point. This is a very important point; a point that is not always realised clearly by all our people. The point is this: that there has got to be a strong, solid foundation for any system of public services, public conveniences. There has got to be a strong, solid foundation; a strong economic foundation. Money does not grow on trees. It doesn't just materialise out of the air. It has to be produced, and that is what I mean when I say "economic foundation."

An English poet said that "man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long." That is what the poet said, but it's not what Government men say; it is not what Members of the House of Assembly say. Our experience is just the opposite. Our experience is that there is no end to what man wants -- no end to it now, and no end in sight. Man wants roads, for example; more roads, new roads, better roads, paved roads, roads that are snow-ploughed in the winter. The Government can build hundreds and hundreds of miles of roads, but more hundreds and hundreds of miles are wanted.

And the same with everything else. There is a tremendous demand for hospitals -- ever more and more hospitals, bigger hospitals, better hospitals; hospitals where there never were hospitals before. And of course hospitals mean medicines, and doctors, and nurses; and hospitals mean airplanes and boats to bring patients to and from the hospitals. There is no end in sight to the demand for these wonderful things here in Newfoundland. At this very minute, while I am speaking to you, great new hospitals are being built at Grand Falls and Gander. A great new extension is about to be built to the Grace Hospital, to make it more than double its present size. A great new residential training school for nurses --- fourteen stories high -- is being built at St. John's. A brand new hospital is about to be built on Bell Island. A big new nurses' home is to be built at Corner Brook. Other hospital facilities are about to be started. Now, all of these brand new hospital facilities will cost nearly twenty-five million dollars. Just think of it -- nearly twenty-five million dollars. So, you see, there's no end in sight to man's needs for public health facilities in Newfoundland.

Or, if you like, take electricity: rural electrification. That is, to bring electric light and power to settlements that never had it before. In the past four or five years we have spent a few million dollars to spread this kind of light, and I'm

glad to say that already we have been able to connect up dozens and dozens of places with electric light. But we have only scratched the surface -- just scratched the surface. More dozens and dozens of places will have to be connected up, and more millions will have to be spent to do it. The end is far from being in sight.

And, as for schools -- who is going to make a good guess on how many more schools will have to be built here in Newfoundland? We have built hundreds and hundreds of brand new schools since Confederation; and we have re-built and enlarged hundreds more. How many hundreds more brand-new schools will still have to be built? and how many hundreds of our present schools will have to be re-built, enlarged, and improved? ... We have just spent fourteen or fifteen million dollars to make a start at building our wonderful new university -- and a beautiful start it is. But that's all it is -- a start. Many, many, many more millions will have to be spent to make the University bigger and better. On the day that Confederation came to Newfoundland we had around three hundred students in the Memorial College. Today there are well over two thousand. We will see three or four thousand in it within the next few years... The end is certainly not in sight.

But that's not all. Our people are coming to have a much more tender conscience, a much more vivid sensitiveness, concerning the less fortunate amongst us. No longer can we turn our backs, or our minds, on the mentally retarded among our Newfoundland children. No longer can we ignore the children who need physical rehabilitation. Our conscience troubles us today when we think of many others in Newfoundland who have been less fortunate, often much less fortunate, than the rest of us: the sick, the lame, the unemployed, and others. We all feel now that something must be done for them, something more than was ever done, something more than is being done today. We all feel this, and rightly so. And the end is not in sight. Our consciences will make us uncomfortable about still other classes of people who have not yet been brought to our attention. And ever more and more money will have to be found to help them. We shall become more anxious than ever to reach out the helping hand -- but it will become more and more expensive to do so.

And it's not only roads and hospitals and schools, and welfare. Man's mind, man's spirit, man's esthetic nature, must not be ignored or neglected. Our people will not always be content to do without art galleries, concert halls, and other cultural centres. And these things can be expensive.

And so you see what I mean when I say that all these wonderful things must have a solid foundation, a solid economic

foundation; or, if you like, a solid dollars-and-cents foundation. The money must be found to pay for them. The money doesn't grow on trees; it doesn't and never will, all of it, come from Ottawa. A lot comes from Ottawa, thank God; that's the prize of Confederation; that's our reward for consenting to become Canadians, for having made Canada bigger and better by joining her. We deserve to share in Canada's greatness, and Canada's wealth, just because Newfoundland is a Province and we are Canadians. That share will continue to grow, mark my words. Successive Governments in Ottawa will make sure of that. One Government will want to do more than their predecessors did; and their successors will want to do more than they did. That's human nature; that's politics. ... But even after saying that, I certainly do not mean that we are ever going to be able to foot all our bills out of money from Ottawa. Money from Ottawa will help, but that's all.

The money to pay for all the improvements we want and need in Newfoundland won't grow on trees, and it won't all come from Ottawa -- so it will have to come out of our own pockets, out of the Newfoundland's people's pockets. And that's what I mean when I say that there must be a solid economic foundation to all this growth, this expansion, this improvement in schools, hospitals, roads, electrification, welfare, and a hundred other

things that we all want and must have if we are to make Newfoundland a thoroughly progressive and up-to-date Province of Canada.

Have I made my point, I wonder? What I have said, does it make sense to you? Do you agree that if we are to have golden eggs, we must have the goose that lays the golden eggs. The golden eggs, of course, are all these benefits, these improvements, these amenities and conveniences that make for modern living in Newfoundland. And the goose is industry -- is a solid economic foundation. I hope you agree.

Now, all down through our long history, for four hundred years, the economic foundation in Newfoundland was our fishery. Not just the cod fishery -- but salmon, and lobster, and herring and halibut; and seals, if you can call seals fish; and whales; and fish oils and fish meals. Lump all these together and you have what we call the fishery, or the fishing industry. And I say that for the first four hundred years of our history the fishery was the only economic foundation we had, the only dollars-and-cents foundation we had. The only dollars that were produced in Newfoundland up to sixty or seventy years ago were the dollars produced in the fishery. It's true that we then began to get a few local factories, and that then we got the Bell Island iron mines, and the Grand Falls mill, and the

Corner Brook mill, and the one or two new mines at Buchans and St. Lawrence. And of course in the past dozen years we have got a few more local factories, and a few more mines. All these are good -- more than good -- but they have all come in the past sixty or seventy years; indeed most of them have come in the past thirty or forty years. All this is to the good -- and I hope and expect to see more of these mines and mills and factories and so forth.

But again I come back to what I said before -- that for the first four hundred years of our history we had nothing but the fishery; and even after getting these new industries we have still had the fisheries. We have had the fisheries now for almost five hundred years, and have them still. We still have thousands of men earning their living, or part of their living, from the fishery. And these thousands of men and families live in hundreds of settlements scattered along thousands of miles of our coast-line in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Furthermore, there are some thousands of our Newfoundland men who have no other trade. For them there are two ways of making a living -- logging and fishing. A few will get jobs at construction work, on the roads, or at the airports, and so forth. But for thousands of our people their only hope of making a living is at logging or fishing.

Now, what does all this mean? I was saying that we must have a strong, solid foundation, economic foundation, to our whole system in Newfoundland; that we must have industries; that we must have ways and means of earning the dollars to pay for all the good things we want and need. This means mining, and it means logging, and it means manufacturing, and it means farming, and it means fishing. We have been paying a lot of attention to mining and manufacturing, but the time has come when we must turn our minds back to our fisheries -- and do it far more than we have done for years past.

The big fisheries conference we held the other day showed us all, I think, that a great new development programme is needed in the fisheries, and would be justified. It was brought out clearly that we have great stocks of fish in our waters, that there are great markets, that new types of gear and engines and boats and fish-making processes are needed. It was brought out clearly that thousands of men can be helped to make a living from fishing -- thousands more than now.

We must, of course, keep right on trying to get new mines and other new industries. We must keep right on trying to get that third paper mill. We must leave no stone unturned to get new jobs, new employment, created for our people. But the one big thing, the one big opportunity, that lies right under our noses is fishery development.

And that is why I have come before you tonight, to announce that the Government want to launch a great fishery development programme. We are determined to embark upon the biggest fishery development programme that Newfoundland has ever known. We know that it will cost a great many millions, a great many millions indeed. Some of these millions will have to come from Ottawa, and some will have to come from the Government here. My own guess is that it will take fifty million dollars, at the very least -- forty-five to fifty million dollars spread over the next four or five or six years. Hundreds of new boats will have to be found. hundreds of new engines, thousands of new pieces of fishing gear. hundreds of new stages and flakes, scores of pieces of harbour improvement. New fish plants will have to be built, new fish-handling and fish-processing techniques will have to be developed. Strong efforts will have to be made to open up the markets. And I am on the air to tell you tonight that the Government have decided to launch a great programme to develop our fisheries, to bring prosperity to the fishermen and to everyone else connected with the fisheries. We have strong hopes of getting many good ideas and suggestions and recommendations from the Fisheries Commission that was selected by the recent fisheries conference. That Fisheries Commission are hard at work, right now, drafting a programme for fishery development. We expect that their report and their recommendations will be a

tower of strength to us in putting a fishery development programme into force, and we are looking forward very eagerly to getting their recommendations.

You see, whatever we did in the past, the fact of the matter is this, that what we must do now is broaden, widen, deepen and strengthen the economic foundation of our progress and prosperity. It is fine to have mineral resources, and of course we must develop them to the full. It is fine to have timber, and we must develop our timber to the full -- for of course mining and forestry are two very great sources of employment for our people. It is fine to have water-powers, and we must develop them to the full. We must develop all our natural resources to the full, for we need them all; we need them all to provide employment for our people.

I am all in favour of secondary industries, because they employ men too. I like to see things manufactured in Newfoundland that we are able to manufacture efficiently and economically -- cement, and plywood, and doors, and gypsum plaster-board, and boots and shoes, and school-desks, and a hundred other articles. I like to see Newfoundlanders employed in these industries, making biscuits, and soft drinks, and paint, and many other things; and I like to see Newfoundlanders buying and using these things made by fellow-Newfoundlanders. I like to see new

banks opening new branches, shops opening new branches, offices opening new branches. I like to see new activities of all kinds such as these going ahead, for every new job created is a triumph for Newfoundland; every additional Newfoundlander getting a job is good for all of us.

These are things that strengthen our Newfoundland economy; these are the things that create jobs and dollars and progress and prosperity.

We must never let up in our efforts to stir up these activities, to create these new jobs. We can't have too many of them, what with our birth-rate, which is the highest in all Canada today.

But the biggest chance of all to get jobs created, to get employment for men, to give people a chance to earn a living, is in fishery development. It would take an awful lot of new enterprises to employ a thousand men, and probably an awful lot of new capital. But in fishery development we can get employment, not for one thousand, but several thousand. This is something that we have proved in the past few years. We gave out loans of Government money running up to something close to eighteen or twenty million dollars. What was the result? The result was that some thousands of men have been employed in and around the new fish plants and on the boats, and hundreds of women in the fish plants.

Now, I'm sure there are many men and women listening to me at this very minute who feel that they have nothing to do with fish, and fish has nothing to do with them. They don't see that fish has any connection with their living, or with their standards of living. They don't see that Newfoundland's very progress depends on the fishermen and the fisheries to a very large extent. They just don't see it. And it is not going to be easy to get them to see it. There are thousands of people -- what am I saying? -- there are tens of thousands living in St. John's and Gander and Grand Falls and Buchans and Bell Island and Deer Lake and Corner Brook and Argentia and Stephenville and Goose Airport: people who never made their living out of the fisheries, and vainly imagine that the fisheries have nothing to do with them or they with the fisheries. And yet it would be largely their money that would have to be used to get a great fishery development programme going.

Now, I have not the slightest doubt that all our fishermen will want us to launch this big fishery development programme. I have no doubt at all of that. I believe that the Fisheries Conference gave us a strong mandate to go ahead with a development programme. I believe that fishermen and merchants and everybody else directly connected with the fisheries want us to launch a good programme of development.

But what about the rest of the population, the great majority of our people ? What do they feel about it ? Would they give us their approval ? Would they give us the green-light, the go-ahead ? Would the people generally give us a mandate to go ahead with a big fishery development programme ? It would be madness for the Government to go ahead with it without knowing that they have the general public behind them.

We are going to go to the people and ask them to give us the go-ahead, the mandate, to launch this programme. I tendered to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor today my advice that he dissolve the Legislature and issue his proclamation for the holding of a general election. This will be held on Monday the 19th of November, and we will make our appeal to the people to approve and support our decision to go ahead with this big development programme in our fisheries. If we get the explicit support of the people, if we receive a strong mandate, in this programme, we shall have the political and constitutional strength and authority, to make the greatest effort ever made in Newfoundland for the fishermen and fisheries of this Province. I am personally prepared to devote myself to this great cause, this great purpose, if the people give us the mandate we need in the election next month.

No doubt there will be other issues in this election, but the main one will be our proposed fishery development programme. We will present our case to the people, and if we are returned to power with a good majority we shall take it to mean that the people are behind us in this policy.