

Secondly, I believed that we should, as a matter of common sense, know all about our own position before we went off discussing our affairs with another country, however friendly and neighbourly.

Then we got down to fact finding, and the issues referred to above were left in abeyance until the rather sudden appearance of Mr. Job's motion<sup>1</sup> which raised all three at once. I voted against that motion. I am proud of it. I would do it again. That motion should have been the one that is now before the Convention. If he had given any serious thought to the fact that the effective, real government of Newfoundland is in the United Kingdom, he would have realised that we ran the risk, by going to the Commission of Government, of getting an answer to our questions from the Commission itself and therefore limited; or made by the United Kingdom government through a third party and therefore limiting our chances of putting up our case face to face; that we may have run the risk of obtaining an opinion from the creator of the real government which the real government would have found it very embarrassing to reverse. Whoever made the final decision, we have accepted certain limitations. Take the case of the reason given for our not approaching the United States on the grounds of the present international tariff conference. I do not accept that suggestion and it is irrelevant. There is a clear case to be made for a separate negotiation, apart from the multilateral tariff arrangements whereby we give something for something. We have already given something and we ought to see what we can do about getting something in return. There is, however, that little phrase Mr. Miller used — "it is doubtful if it comes within our terms of reference." I am glad that the case is not entirely closed.

Now we come to the motion, and the question of how we are going to approach this issue. I have no doubt it will pass. I have no doubt Great Britain will give us all the facts we need. I am more concerned with the way in which we approach the problem and the importance which we as representatives of the people of Newfoundland, approach the problem of Newfoundland. This motion can be the instrument through which we can assert a statesmanlike approach to larger issues which in the end may be

of more importance than all we have done so far. I am not a man given to outbursts of patriotic fervour, but on this occasion I can say, as quietly as a big issue will allow, let us go forward proud of our honourable and great traditions but more determined that in our approach we will lay the groundwork for a bigger and a better Newfoundland.

**Mr. Burry** I rise to support the motion. I am going to vote for it; I am enthusiastic about it. There is another matter relating to it that has something to do with the matter on which Mr. Butt ended — the approach to the government. I think that the statements and the attitude taken by this Convention towards that government and its associates are analogous. Statements which have been made throughout the session range all the way from comparatively mild references — such as not being willing to co-operate with us — to the one bearing on the expenditure the government is making this year, referring to it as "a deliberately planned campaign to bleed the finances of this country" before they go out of office.... They were not altogether called for. If members wish to express their feelings in that way, they have a perfect right to do so. I respect their sincerity; they are just as sincere in what they are saying as I am in what I say now. I do not rise to object to that in the least. I do rise to declare myself, not in the spirit of being holier than thou, not in the spirit of having a better plan for the future of this country, but in a humble spirit to say to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that I am not a part of that. I feel that though the relationship we have had with Great Britain throughout our history, including the past 12 or 13 years, may not be all it might have been, these statements are not called for, and this approach is just not the proper one. I am not building up a case for Commission of Government. The kind of government which is going to get my vote is that in which the Newfoundland people are going to get a fair chance. If Commission is not the kind of government which the people want, then I am going to vote the Commission of Government out. I recognise something of the great value they have been to this country; I realise also the errors they made; I hope I can see the good with the bad. Now, if they go out, our ushering or kicking them out should not be done in just this way. It is not

<sup>1</sup>February 4, 1947, p. 281.