

concessions if that is possible. In conclusion, I think our delegation to Ottawa did a fairly good job under the circumstances, and that their report as contained in the Black Books shows they did the best they could and most decidedly as good as any delegation we might have sent. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your forbearance and wish to say that any further remarks I may make on this matter now before the Chair may be left until the question of recommendations comes up. **Mr. Penney** May I ask you, if in case the motion is adopted, will the delegates be allowed to comment on confederation under the heading of forms of government?

**Mr. Chairman** Yes, Mr. Penney, I've given considerable thought to the question. Mr. Higgins has a motion on the order paper, covering responsible government or Commission government. As far as Mr. Higgins' motion is concerned, it follows that discussion will have to be confined to the two forms of government. In addition to this, Mr. Smallwood has given notice of motion covering three forms of government including confederation with Canada.... In other words, the position is that under Mr. Higgins' motion, re-

sponsible government and Commission of Government would be disposed off. Once Mr. Higgins' motion is disposed off by the House, you will not be able to re-introduce discussion on either of the two forms of government covered by Mr. Higgins' motion because it's *res judicata*. It's been disposed of by the House and that's the end of it. It will therefore mean that the confederation matter will have to be dealt with by the Convention on Mr. Smallwood's motion. Therefore to answer your question in a roundabout way, yes, you will have an opportunity of expressing your opinion on the confederation question after and when Mr. Higgins' motion has been disposed of by the House.

**Mr. Penney** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I intended to say something on about confederation and forms of government, and I wouldn't like to be deprived of that privilege....

**Mr. Chairman** ....The motion is that the committee rise, report that they considered the matter to them referred, and recommend that it lie on the table of the House for future reference....

*[The motion carried. The committee rose, the Convention approved the report, and adjourned]*

#### January 16, 1948

**Mr. Smallwood** I beg to move notice of motion to move the following amendment to the motion of Mr. Higgins, namely that the following words be added: "Provided that under this system the United Kingdom government would, by means of grants-in-aid or otherwise if the need arose, guarantee the solvency of the public finances of Newfoundland without any lowering of the level of the country's public services." It would then read:

Be it resolved that this Convention recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the wishes of the people of Newfoundland should be ascertained at the earliest moment as to whether it is their desire that responsible government, as it existed in Newfoundland prior to its suspension in 1934, be restored; or that the present form of government be continued, *provided* that under this system the United Kingdom government would, by means of grants-in-aid or otherwise if the need arose, guarantee the solvency of the public finances of New-

foundland without any lowering of the level of the country's public services.

**Mr. Higgins** I would like to say that it is rather out of order. It is an amendment to a motion I have not made or might not even make. The proper time to move the amendment is when the motion is made.

**Mr. Smallwood** I think it is perfectly well predated in parliamentary practice when motions appear on the order paper, for other members to give notice of amendment.

**Mr. Chairman** I would not accept an amendment without notice.

**Mr. Higgins** Should it not be after the motion is made? The motion may be withdrawn.

**Mr. Chairman** If the motion is withdrawn, obviously there will not be an amendment to a motion not made.

**Mr. Higgins** I move on behalf of Mr. Hollett order no. 1 on the order paper.

**Mr. Chairman** It is moved that I should receive and put the closure motion. Members will recall that on last Friday I received notice of this motion