

**Mr. Smallwood** I am on my point of order. There is one still before the Chair. Am I not entitled, as a member of this Convention, to have it assumed, unless it can be proved to be otherwise, that I am a man of integrity and sincerity? And here is a man who says he does not know whether I am a man of integrity or not.

**Mr. Chairman** No, he does not say that.

**Mr. Smallwood** He has doubt about it. He does not know.

**Mr. Chairman** He does not know whether you are playing a practical joke or not.

**Mr. Smallwood** In other words he does not know whether I am honest or not, whether I have introduced this sincerely and honestly, or whether I am just playing a joke. If that's not imputing...

**Mr. Chairman** I am sorry, Mr. Smallwood, I have to hold that the statement made by Mr. Reddy is not capable, in my judgement, of the interpretation you have placed upon it.

**Mr. Reddy** OK, Mr. Chairman?

**Mr. Chairman** Yes.

**Mr. Reddy** I know we are living in a mad world, and I have thought recently that we here have ringside seats, and are participants in propagating some of this madness.

Mr. Chairman, about three or four weeks ago the Economic Committee delivered through Major Cashin its Economic Report. As a supplement to this report, the Committee made a serious, and I believe sincere attempt, to give an estimate of our probable revenue for the next three years, which period they called the foreseeable future. They were careful to say that they were guessing, but that this guess was based on present day facts, as they saw them; and as they were all intelligent men, they made what they said was an estimate of what our economic condition might be for the next three years.

When Major Cashin sat down the member for Bonavista Centre rose to his feet, and launched forth on perhaps the most devastating, violent and bitter speech I have listened to since I came here 15 months ago. Mr. Smallwood ridiculed the idea of this Economic Committee attempting to give the people a problematical budget for three years ahead. Mr. Smallwood used his bitterest sarcasm to discredit the Economic Report in general, and the three-year budget in particular.... Mr. Smallwood said, in effect, that for the Economic

Committee to estimate our revenue three years in advance was nonsense and worse. When he had delivered his solar plexus punch I felt that, irrespective of the merits or demerits of the case, that Mr. Smallwood was sincerely convinced that the future could not be seen, and our probable revenue could not be essayed, and we could not count our chickens before they were hatched; and that this was the honest and sincere conviction of the member for Bonavista Centre. So much for that; but as they say, "time marches on".

For the past three or four days I have been sitting, listening to the same member from Bonavista Centre stand up and deliver his estimate of our revenue and expenditure if we became a province of Canada, not for a foreseeable future of a paltry three years, or four years, or five years, or six years or seven years. No, nothing less than a period of eight years in the future is worthy of the attention of Mr. Smallwood, and equipped with his own particular spyglass, and all by himself, he projects himself and all of us eight years ahead, up to 1956. He then divides the eight years into two four-year periods, and proceeds with serene self-confidence to read our economic future for the next eight years — and in three days composes a budget covering from now till 1956, and brings it to this House and delivers it for our appreciation. And I have no doubt if the gentleman from Bonavista Centre had been requested to prepare a budget taking us further into the stratosphere, he would have done so with equal facility.

Now Mr. Chairman, I may not have the best of understanding, but as I see it the member for Bonavista Centre has said in effect to Major Cashin and his associates of the Economic Committee, "How dare you attempt to look into the future. That is not *your* province — that is just another of *my* provinces, and it is only *I* who am permitted to see the shape of things to come. It is all right for me to estimate eight years ahead, but it is nonsensical for you, Major Cashin, to attempt any such thing!" Mr. Chairman, may I be pardoned if I ask in all seriousness if there be some direct ray of light giving the member for Bonavista Centre prophetic vision, and leaving the other members of this House in darkness? If so, I wish to raise a point of order, so that this ray of light be made available to the other members also.

Mr. Chairman, the humble members of the