

please. The actual position is that it is the right of this Convention to raise any question at this time arising out of the terms received from Canada, all of which have been read and the business is before the Chair. I ruled in the beginning and several times since that members would be free to revert back to any clause after and when the document as a whole had been read and considered. Now I do feel that until the information is forthcoming to enable us to make this breakdown, that there is not much point in going on with this debate on the aspects of clauses 7-14 inclusive.... If we are going to debate it should be on the actual position. If these figures are wrong, or at least out of date, I cannot see much point in pursuing it. I am not suggesting you cannot debate it; but unless you are prepared to carry on the debate on the presupposition that the figures here are subject to change, there is not much point.

Mr. Higgins If there are any changes, we are prepared to make the changes.

Mr. Hollett This is 1945-46; it is as fair to Newfoundland as it is to Canada. It is the Customs returns for 1945-46.

Mr. Bailey I wonder when we received these books if they were sitting at Geneva? Why did not the Canadian authorities make a note that they would be changing their tariffs? We have the official report, but by the time we received it, there was a conference at Geneva by which this will be changed.

Mr. Chairman It may develop that Canada or no other country could forecast the outcome.

Mr. Bailey They could have put in a note that there may be changes.

Mr. Cashin That has been done. The conference has made public the various tariff changes. And Newfoundland made it in the public press a couple of weeks ago. I presume the Canadian changes were not in the press.

Mr. Smallwood I have a table sent by the government of the changes.

Mr. Cashin The Canadian government should have had courtesy enough to know that we were discussing these terms or proposals and they should know that these figures are not sufficient in any way, shape or form. In other words, that thing is a fraud. No member of the delegation to Ottawa can attempt to get up here and discuss the questions to which they should know the

answers, and be able to explain to us the various figures in the Grey Book, to the satisfaction of the Convention. I could tell you how long it will take to get the answers regarding the Customs — in my opinion and in the opinion of the experts of Ottawa, it will take six months. Are we going to stay here six months trying to dig up information from Canada ... when it should be here properly made out? There is not a correct figure in the book. These experts at Ottawa faked the figures in this book as far as the Ottawa delegation is concerned.

Mr. Vardy We are trying to base these terms on known facts at the time the delegation was in Ottawa. I fail to see why changes should be brought in except where we find anything in the Black Books which may be wrong; then it is our duty to secure confirmation or contradiction of the facts. There may be changes in the tariffs in Canada, changes in the excise duty. After receiving particulars of the changes we may debate this only to find out 12 months from now that there may be other changes. In reality we are endeavouring to debate what is contained in the Black Books. If we find the figures open to question, we have every right to question them. It is on the basis of these terms of confederation that we must continue our debate. I am agreeable to waiting for particular information. I am not so sure any of the questions asked cover the excise taxes which are really different from tariffs.

Mr. Higgins Is it not correct that any tariff changes, before they can be made, first have to be debated in the Canadian Parliament, no matter what agreement was arrived at?

Mr. Chairman It is not binding upon the signatories unless and until it is implemented by the local legislators.

Mr. Higgins It is quite possible they may not be debated until January, February or March. If we have to wait until that matter comes before the Canadian Parliament to discuss this important matter, where are we going to be?

Mr. Harrington In connection with this matter, the suggestion has come up here as to when the Canadian Parliament is going to discuss tariff changes. There is one question in my mind in connection with this whole business, these Black Books. We have the understanding that there will possibly be changes. What about the Grey Book? The letter says, "I am now in a position to advise