

tinue these roads next year. They also began the road on the Burin Peninsula. These are roads which almost certainly will be completed before we become a province at all, except the stretch from Stephenville Crossing to Port-aux-Basques. That would have to be one of the first roads to be completed after union, because until it is completed to Port-aux-Basques, Newfoundland would not get the new ferry on the Gulf, and our tourist trade depends to a very large extent on our getting that ferry.

I think it is common knowledge that a lot of roads were commenced this year and will be finished next year; and that in the course of the next few years the mileage of motorable roads in Newfoundland is going to increase steadily and considerably, which, in view of the fact that last year the government took in \$900,000 in gasoline taxes, and in this current year will touch the \$1 million mark, it is pretty conservative, for the first four years of union, to put gasoline revenue at only \$1 million, and for the second four years to stick another quarter of a million on it and say that revenue from gasoline will increase in Newfoundland between 1947 and 1955 only by \$250,000. So I hold that it is a most cautious and conservative estimate, and it would not surprise me at all, not at all if, by 1955, revenue to the province from gasoline, for use by motorists, would be up to \$1.5 million, rather than \$1.25 million. Now yesterday, Mr. Hollett drew my attention...

Mr. Higgins Can I go on for a minute before you answer that question? I would like to finish...

Mr. Smallwood I have said I am not going to answer a whole lot of questions by Mr. Higgins. I have made an exception in two cases, but I am not going to be made the victim of courtroom tactics, and be subjected to cross-examination by a fellow delegate. Anyone else, yes, but not by a fellow delegate.

Mr. Higgins It is a little awkward, but I would like to ask a couple of questions if it would be all right.

Mr. Chairman I rule that Mr. Higgins is entitled to ask his questions at this time.... I don't want that to be misconstrued to mean that I am ruling upon the propriety or impropriety of the questions. If Mr. Smallwood's answer to all or any of these questions is that the knowledge is already known to Mr. Higgins because he was a

member of that delegation, well of course that is a matter for Mr. Smallwood to decide himself. I therefore hold, Mr. Higgins, bearing in mind what I have already said, that you have a right to put your questions.

Mr. Higgins I said, sir, that I made a mistake. The budget that we have for revenue in the Black Book was not made before we left here. We made a budget before we left, but the budget that is in the Black Book was a budget made by the entire delegation while we were in Ottawa. Now I am dropping the roads, as it is a pretty hot bridge, and I would like to have an explanation of why the item Home Affairs has been increased from \$50,000, as arrived at by the delegation in Ottawa, to \$125,000?

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I answered that in great detail on Monday, and not only that, but the result of it was an exchange of questions between Major Cashin and myself which led me to deliver a talk on what it was proper to call revenue and what was not proper to be called revenue. So, having given a complete explanation on Monday, and again yesterday, I don't propose to do it again.

Mr. Higgins Why was the revenue increased from \$50,000 to \$120,000?

Mr. Smallwood As I have already explained that on two occasions this very week, yesterday and on Monday, I don't propose to answer it again today.

Mr. Higgins The question was never asked. The question was merely asked should it go to capital or current account.

Mr. Chairman On that point there was, if I remember correctly, an exchange between Major Cashin and Mr. Smallwood as to the propriety of including expenditures of that sort in current account. I must say that my recollection is that Mr. Smallwood...

Mr. Higgins I only asked how did the increase arise. That's all. Nothing more.

Mr. Chairman Have you anything to say, Mr. Smallwood?

Mr. Smallwood No, I have nothing further to say.

Mr. Higgins Well, can I have one more question and then I will sit down? The item of Forestry was increased from \$151,000 to \$171,000. Now \$20,000 is neither here nor there, but I would still like to know how that increase was arrived at.