

get the terms of confederation, and how can I, in fairness to these people, deliberately vote against this motion? I can't see what all this bally-hoo is about. Send the delegation and if there are no terms that will put an end to delegations going to Canada for many years to come. Whether we want it or not, a delegation will go to Canada some day, either from this Convention or from some future government. So, why not now, and get it over with?

**Mr. Fudge** I rise to support the amendment. I think you are all aware of my feelings. I believe that first we want to have a government so that we can decide in the right way. I paid particular attention to my friend from White Bay wherein he told us they have had quite a lot of meetings, and talked about certain forms of government. I presume he was speaking for his district. He did say there was one particular form of government they did not want. I have an idea what form he meant. Suppose I want that form, have I not got the right to recommend it? As far as Humber district is concerned, I am here as a representative and I have endeavoured to do the best I can. I am not afraid to return home. If they want something better than I recommended, they are entitled to it.

**Mr. Newell** I think the member from Corner Brook has misinterpreted something I have said. I did not say some have expressed preference for two specific forms of government — what I did say, however, and in my own mind I was thinking of economic conditions, was they were quite certain what they did not want — ever again.

**Mr. Higgins** I have listened carefully this afternoon and evening to some fine addresses from all shadows of political opinion — if you put it that way — those who profess a leaning towards confederation and those who lean towards home rule. At times I have been somewhat amused, at times somewhat sorry at some of the expressions I have heard....

In that speech today there was too much digging up of the graves of people who never had any possible hope of being represented here — they are dead. Records of dead people do not concern this Convention. What is the point in bringing up the records of prime ministers? What is the point in bringing up records of commissioners? It has nothing to do with this Convention. There is entirely too much of the broken record, too much of this 1933 agreement, this

broken pledge. That has nothing to do with us. We do not care if the Prime Minister made a pledge he did not keep. We are here only as a board of enquiry. We are not trying prime ministers; we are not trying commissioners; we are merely trying to find out under the terms of our Convention Act certain information, and anybody who brings in other things befogging that issue is not playing the game by us in the Convention. Today the Hon. Labour member for Humber was discussing the ship of state and the various articles we should have on the ship. One important thing he forgot, one part of the equipment we should have is a bilge pump — we are going to be sunk unless we can get rid of the bilge.

We have the suggestion that they will not discuss the matter of terms with us. Who says that? The only way we can find out things of that nature is by written briefs. We have some official accounts from Canadian ministers who said they would discuss the matter with Convention representatives, if they so desired. One of the speakers tonight who delivered a fine speech, said that some people were anticonfederates but they wanted to hear the terms. I say that lest there be any misunderstanding about my anticonfederacy — I am definitely pro-responsible government and nothing else — but between pro-responsible government and not doing my duty as a member of this Convention, there is a job. When the time comes there is no doubt in my mind about how I am going to vote, and no doubt about the way I feel on this approach to Canada or any other country. It is only because we have a job we must do. Much has been said about our not having the power from the people. I am certain that we do have a mandate from the people to make all the enquiries possible into all the forms of government that we think might possibly come within the purview of the national referendum. I am no constitutional lawyer — merely an ordinary general practitioner — but at least I have sufficient common sense to interpret the simple terms of reference. The other angle by the people who are against these terms, is what is the point of going to Canada, you have not the power to bargain, you are merely a post office. I do not care if we are a rubber stamp, we will get what we can. Once we have gotten that we have discharged our obligation, and for all who are pro-responsible government, if we could get better terms by bar-