

February 4, 1947

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure¹

Mr. Chairman Orders of the day. Mr. Higgins K.C. to move the following amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the Convention....

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, as I told you yesterday this is merely a formal motion to bring the rules of procedure in line with the amended act. It requires, of course, a two-thirds vote of the Convention, but I can assure you it is purely of a formal nature, and there is nothing that

should give you cause to worry in the matter. I move it, sir.

Mr. Chairman Moved and seconded by Mr. Ashbourne that the rules of the Convention be amended in accordance with the motion just made by Mr. Higgins. Are you ready for the question?

[After some debate, the motion carried]

Motion to Enquire into Future Forms of Government

Mr. Chairman Mr. Job will move the following resolution. Mr. Secretary, will you read it please? *[The Secretary read the motion]*

Whereas it is the duty of this National Convention to ascertain all important facts bearing upon the financial and economic position of this country, and upon all possible and suitable forms of government to be laid before the people

Be it therefore resolved that it is essential that this Convention take immediate steps to ascertain

1. What steps, if any, can be taken for establishing improved economic or fiscal relationships between the United States of America and Newfoundland particularly bearing in mind the present occupation of certain Newfoundland territory by the said United States of America and the fact that free entry is accorded to the United States for its importations into Newfoundland;

2. What financial and fiscal relationships could be expected between the Government of the United Kingdom and Newfoundland

(1) Under a continuation of Commission government in its present form,

(2) Under a revised form of Commission government with elected representatives thereon,

(3) Under responsible government in approximately its previous form,

(4) Under any other suitable form of government.

3. What would be a fair and equitable basis for federal union of the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, or what other fiscal,

political or economic arrangements may be possible.

Be it further resolved that His Excellency the Governor in Commission be informed that this National Convention desires to appoint a committee of its members to confer with His Excellency the Governor in Commission on ways and means of determining the matters hereinbefore enumerated, and that in the event of His Excellency the Governor in Commission being agreeable to conferring with such a committee, the Chairman of this Convention in consultation with the Steering Committee shall thereupon select a delegation of members of this Convention which, with the Chairman of the Convention, shall constitute the committee referred to in this resolution and which shall report to this Convention the results of their conferences before being in any way committed to the despatch of any delegation outside of Newfoundland.

Mr. Job Mr. Chairman, my intention was at one time to ask for this motion to be deferred for another day, because the members have only just got the copy of the resolution placed on their desks, but I thought that the same purpose would be served if I introduced the resolution and perhaps got a seconder, and then the matter might be laid over until tomorrow for debate.

In moving this resolution I feel that there is no need to take up the time of the Convention with a very lengthy explanation. The motion is self-explanatory and in my opinion non-controversial. If it is adopted it will enable the Convention to start the machinery at once for securing certain

¹Volume II:53.