

property; Quebec will get the Labrador; responsible government will get better terms." Mr. Chairman, here are the terms of union. The people have them now. Let *them* decide the issue. It is their absolute right, and if the members of this Convention in inconceivable arrogance attempt to cheat them of that right, I warn them that the people will know how to deal with them.

Sir, my duties as a Convention member are now all but ended. What I have done throughout is to try as best I could to reach no decision as to the comparative merits of the different forms of government until all the facts possible had been ascertained and discussed. And for that reason I have made no confession of political faith in this chamber. Some of you will remember that years ago I strongly opposed the introduction of Commission government. While I did not then and do not now favour that form, my hostility to its introduction was based mainly upon the fact that it was imposed upon the people without even asking their consent. It robbed the people of the right to say how they should be ruled. What was done then was undemocratic and politically indecent. Again I am faced with a similar question today. There is to be a referendum at which the people are to decide what form of government they want. The defeat of this motion may rob them of their right to vote for one of the forms of government. I would not be a party to such robbery in 1933, and I will not be a party to it in 1948. I will not join the enemies of the people. Who are the 45 individuals who sit here to say to the Newfoundland people, "You *shall not* have an opportunity to vote for confederation?" What right have we to tell them that we will save them from themselves by denying them that right which was always theirs morally, and which Britain has returned to them now in full measure?

I shall vote for this motion. In my view it is the only course open to an honest man and a democrat. But I have, like every member, a preference of my own. I have given the matter a great deal of thought within the past 18 months, and I have at least had as good an opportunity to judge of the merits of the several forms of government as any man in Newfoundland, and I have come to a definite conclusion. I am not bound to disclose that conclusion here, but as many have made this Convention the means of proclaiming their political faiths, there is no

reason why I should not tell the people where I stand. Naturally I hope the people will agree with me, but whatever form of government they choose I shall accept it loyally.

Because confederation will reduce the cost of living for our people and raise their standard of living;

Because confederation will reduce the burden of taxation on our people and apportion the burden more fairly amongst them;

Because confederation will give our people social services such as no other form of government would give them;

Because confederation will provide our people with wider opportunities of employment;

Because confederation will provide our people with greatly improved railway and other transportation services;

Because confederation will stabilise government revenues by means of definite federal cash grants;

Because confederation will make Newfoundland one of the family of Canadian provinces and bring her into union with the great, wealthy and growing Canadian nation, which has flourished under union while we have marched with snail's pace under isolation;

Because of these irresistible benefits offered our struggling people, sir, I am a confederate.

Mr. Higgins First of all, I would like to offer my congratulations to my learned friend Mr. Bradley on a very fine speech indeed. I have admired Mr. Bradley's forensic ability for some time and today his speech was of the same order. It was also fully apparent to me that Mr. Bradley was pleading a case which he himself was not fully satisfied with. With respect to the remarks made by Mr. Bradley in his address in referring to the conduct of members here prior to the Christmas recess, whatever that conduct was, we have been very fair. Nobody can say that this confederation proposal has not been given anything but the fullest attention of the house for a longer period than any other form of government or any other report, and as Mr. Smallwood admitted at the end of the debate, he was fully satisfied with all the publicity given it.

I would also like to say I concur with the previous speakers in the views expressed by them on the communistic tinge of Mr. Smallwood's remarks during this debate. I would also like to