

Newfoundland is sensible and well within my reading of our terms of reference. The British government must have some attitude with regard to Newfoundland's future position in the world, and it is only right that we should meet them with cards on the table, find out what the position is with regard to our national debt et cetera, so that we may be better able to assess the financial and economic position of our country.

About the Ottawa delegation, I have said all I have to say. Mr. Smallwood's suggestion that the people of this country be asked to make a decision to go into confederation on terms handed to a delegation of this Convention without bargaining or negotiation is fantastic. The Canadians would think we are fools if we accepted such a position. Accordingly, I propose the following resolution:

In view of the vital necessity of getting certain information relative to this country's financial and economic position, which must properly be known by this Convention before it can decide whether or not there is a further necessity of approaching any other countries within or without the British Empire for terms of any kind whatsoever; the matter of a delegation to Ottawa should be left in abeyance until such time as the delegation to London (if and when said delegation is despatched) has returned.

**Mr. Northcott** I wish to second Mr. Harrington's amendment for the following reason. If we cannot discuss the fiscal, political and economic situation of Newfoundland and Canada intelligently, then just what are we to talk about? This is the people's house and the government of the people only should enquire into this all-important matter. This issue can only be decided by the people and not by a few of us here present tonight wanting to know the terms. I am not opposed to getting these terms through the proper channels. The only means I know of is, first to elect our own government which will then decide what they want, and open negotiations with the Dominion government and see what arrangements can be made if any. I am not anticipating, after we have the terms, on living with silver spoons in our mouths. We are the crossroads of the world today, and hold in our hand the ace card. May God give us strength in this opportunity to think wisely and well.... Gentlemen, when we sign our names to any

terms, let us be sincere and honest in all our dealings and may our hand not waver in this all-important issue.

**Mr. Crosbie** I have listened for some four or five months to the question of confederation debated by confederates and anticonfederates. When I was elected in the West End of St. John's I did not know confederation could or would be an issue. However, we have been told by the late Chairman and by Professor Wheare that it is a form of government that might be recommended by the Convention for the referendum. This being so, I do not see why this House should be delayed any longer objecting to a delegation going to Canada and coming back with the terms. I agree with Mr. Harrington that there is an awful lot of loose talk of federal terms and propaganda going around, and I think the time has come when we should pin down the loose talk. If Canada has terms, let us get them; let us know what we are talking about. We were elected for the purpose of finding out the financial and economic position of this country, and personally I am going to vote against the amendment. The question of confederation can be safely left in the hands of the voters.

**Mr. Chairman** There is a slight correction Mr. Harrington wishes to make in his amendment.

**Mr. Harrington** I request that the words "left in abeyance" be stricken out and the word "deferred" substituted.

**Mr. Chairman** Does that meet with your approval, Mr. Northcott?

**Mr. Northcott** Yes.

**Mr. Chairman** Those who have not spoken on the motion should confine yourselves to the amendment. If you should speak on both, then you will not be allowed to make any further speech.

**Mr. Newell** In the matter of this amendment, I do not see the purpose of it except if it is intended to stall us a little while longer. Many, who on previous occasions voted against getting the terms of confederation, said at that time that it was part of our duty to get them, but that the matter was premature and that we should not send a delegation anywhere at that time. That technicality has been destroyed by the fact we have already voted to send a delegation to England. I see no reason why, in order to facilitate the work of the Convention, we should not get this busi-