

I further say that like a plant held in the dark once submitted to sunshine, it will grow, develop and be firm. Can we do this? Again the answer is yes, but first we must have representation, Newfoundland representation. Now don't jump up, Mr. Smallwood, I am not talking about political representation. Newfoundland representation in the world programme. Turning again to the picture of world trade relationships, whilst we are not a contributor to the political influences which determine the shape of things to come and the stabilisation of western Europe, there is every reason to believe that we will have a strong, favourable reaction in our fish markets. How will all this be removed from the scheme of things which in years gone by prevented us from selling our produce because trade sanctions were being enforced against our customers? The effect of these sanctions is shown in the Chadwick-Jones Report, Mr. Chairman, on page 23, and I quote, "Sanctions against Italy and civil war in Spain threatened to eliminate two of the most important European markets, and the value of exports of dried cod to European countries fell from \$3,400,000 in the financial year 1934-35 to under \$1,520,000 in 1937-38." Sanctions, Newfoundland backing up sanctions, poor crippled Newfoundland backing up sanctions for the British Empire.¹

The programme for Europe envisions the removal of all trade barriers. I do not wish, sir, to labour this point, the programme for Europe envisions the removal of all trade barriers — and while I have not wished to labour this point, I hoped to express the importance to our economy of our external relationship, as well as an appreciation of the now apparent fact that an effort is about to be made to assist the countries of western Europe. A substantial proof that they will stand together in peace as in war is now evident, equally evident is their need to do so against the progressive assaults of communism; for once the world is divided into two camps of such dissimilar thinking, military and naval tension will not ease. And so we with our bases remain target no. 1 on the Atlantic seaboard. This is not a position to be coveted, but it is a part of our future whether we like it or not....

Perhaps as we speak here we do so as the last body of Newfoundlanders elected for a national

purpose. Let it not be said of us that we did not protest the injustices committed against our country by the impairment of our economy. Sometimes I think we accepted too quietly the restrictions enforced on us by Commission of Government in preventing us from talking trade relationships and similar matters with the USA. In any other country such muzzling could have but one reaction, for how closely trade is interlocked with economy has been amply shown in the Economic Report. How different this report could have been if the Committee had been permitted to interview the American government on the aforementioned subjects. Evident now is their great handicap in forecasting the foreseeable future in a comprehensive manner by not knowing the condition and disposition of those with whom we do business....

And so the final report of the National Convention has been submitted, and I approach the climax of my responsibility when I say I corroborate it. From now on the responsibility slowly shifts to the people, and we will be left to justify our recommendations in our own hearts. That our conclusions will be based on actions governed by neither fear, favour nor prejudice will be our consolation, whatever the eventual result. That the road ahead will have its ups and downs, in this country as in other countries, one cannot dispute. Such are the realities of this earth and one would be a fool to disregard them. One would be a greater fool not to use all means to guard against them. Our economy is sound. Our future can be but the result of the actions of our people. That their actions will be governed by neither fear, favour nor prejudice, I am happy to think.

[The committee rose and reported progress. Mr. Smallwood and Mr. Higgins moved that various motions be deferred]

Mr. Higgins I move that the Convention hold night sessions on every day that a day session of the Convention is held.

Mr. Watton I second that motion.

Mr. Chairman Since you gave notice of this motion, the possibilities of giving effect to your motion have been explored. I have to report it is not, for two important reasons, possible to hold night sessions other than on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. If it is decided to give full effect

¹The section taken from the recording ends here.