

I contend that this resolution should not have been brought in at this time, firstly because it has sown the seed of distrust and misunderstanding among the members of this Convention when they should be working in harmony toward the completion of the first and most vital task, the reports of the various committees; secondly because in the ears and eyes of the public it will eclipse the facts that should be given careful study at this time. I feel that if there are people in this country interested in confederation, and if we believe in democracy, we must at the proper time give them the opportunity to express their desires. I think that had Mr. Smallwood awaited a more opportune time, and introduced his resolution in a different spirit, there could have been little reasonable opposition.

I must confess I was not invited to the alleged confederation "conference", nor did Mr. Smallwood as yet make any overture to me.

I suggest we define once and for all our position, and with confidence pursue our tasks to a successful conclusion with equal rights for all and privileges for none.

**Mr. Vardy** Mr. Chairman and members of the Convention, contrary to the expressed opinions of a great many, we have already reached the stage when the subject matter before us calls for alert thinking and lively debate. I came to this Convention with an open mind, and I still maintain it in spite of what anyone may guess or think. My mind is closed only on the form of government that I do not think for a moment any member of this Convention, elected under strictly democratic principles, would tolerate, that being a continued dictatorship for this country.

Before we have had a real opportunity of even weighing the pros and cons of our terms of reference, in order to soberly tackle the tremendous task before us, some of the Newfoundland and Canadian papers have chosen the future leaders of our country. To these people I would say, "Judge not that ye be not judged", unless your judgment shows some semblance of intelligence. Who knows, from the little ground we have covered, but what the real leaders of Newfoundland may have scarcely spoken at this Convention. In fact they may not be here at all....

I have not been offered any job. No one has attempted to bribe me to vote for or against the resolution and if they had it would not influence

me in the least. I am prepared to sink or swim on the dictates of my own conscience. My district gave me a clear mandate to vote according to the facts as I saw them. I went through that same district in 1932 as a strictly independent candidate after refusing a party ticket with expenses paid, and polled 820 votes or 100 over the party candidate. This time in the same district I had about the same number as the whole of my five opponents put together, and I never had a single interruption or a sarcastic question in my whole campaign. My people generally want to know what the best terms for confederation would be, and to know what the chances are of continuing on our own, as there are many erroneous statements in the air for and against, and it is our duty to clarify the issue and enlighten the public as far as possible on the matter. It is solely with this motive in view that I support the resolution.

I wish to make it clear I had never seen or discussed it with anyone except as a casual remark among the members. As far as getting the terms for confederation with Canada is concerned, it is our bounden duty to get them and see just what they are. We would be failing in our obligation to the people if we were to terminate our deliberations without making a fair and proper analysis in minute detail covering every phase of their offer as far as it would affect the future economy of this country. What we must eventually decide to recommend is what in our opinion would be the greatest good for the greatest number. I do regret that it has entered the discussion stage so early in our proceedings, and it devolves on us the responsibility of holding our heads, controlling our language and avoiding as far as possible any real debate on what might be the ultimate outcome of a matter so vitally affecting the future of Newfoundland.

I do not propose to suggest any particular form of government for our country at this juncture as it would be premature. All forms of government should be left out of our deliberations as far as possible until the basic facts of our peculiar economic set-up are fully explored. At the proper time this important part of our duty will be properly taken care of and every phase of our case will be fully covered. Gentlemen, what you say or do here will go down in history and your names will be blazoned in future text books for the principles you support. What such a member or