

had agreed to pay the loss, I would have said so.... But I had to speak the truth as I knew it.... I don't think the loss on Gander will cost the public chest of this country a single dollar.

**Mr. Higgins** I hope I don't embarrass Mr. Smallwood in the question — I would be rather surprised if I did, but nevertheless this is a report brought in by his Committee, and the intimation that we have from anything brought in is that it is public, I take it.... We gather that Mr. Smallwood, or his Committee, were advised by some person, maybe Mr. Pattison, that he advised the government that the fee for landing should be \$300.... Do you know if that is a fact or not, Mr. Smallwood? It is very important. Did the Director say that we should get \$300 for a landing fee?

**Mr. Smallwood** I would like very much indeed to be able to answer Mr. Higgins frankly; however, I can do no more than repeat what is in this last page of our report. I asked if \$300 for landing should be charged, and he said, "I am not going to answer that question because it might interfere with Pattison." I thought he meant Squadron Leader Pattison, who is the Director of Civil Aviation. Then I said, "Would you say whether or not that it is the opinion of the Director and other officials of the Department of Civil Aviation that it ought to be \$300 per landing?", and Mr. Neill, said "I certainly will not." Mr. Job said, "Would you say they expressed that opinion?" He said, "Minutes between Gander and myself are privileged." That's all I can say to Mr. Higgins. I will, however, say this, that a man who is an outstanding authority on aviation, and I do not refer to Squadron Leader Pattison now, stated to me that any amount up to \$1,000 per landing, that is \$2,000 per round trip, would be still an economic figure to charge the international air lines for the use of Gander.... I have a copy of that statement, and I delivered it to a Commissioner who delivered it to Mr. Neill, or at least he told me he did. Anything up to \$1,000 per landing would be an economic figure. Now when I asked him if he had been advised by the Director of Civil Aviation, or anyone, if a figure of \$300 would be all right, he would not reply.

**Mr. Higgins** I am asking him that.... Did you have \$300 per landing fee as a fishing question, or it is based on facts?

**Mr. Smallwood** It was based on knowledge. I know that the Commissioner for Public Utilities

was advised officially that \$300 ought to be charged.

**Mr. Higgins** You know that the Commissioner was advised officially, by, I take it, some member or the Director of Civil Aviation?

**Mr. Smallwood** I am sorry, I won't say by whom. Mr. Higgins will appreciate that I cannot, in honour, repeat information given to me unless I am permitted to do it.

**Mr. Higgins** Then I don't think the shorthand script should have been submitted to the Convention. We are not sure if Mr. Smallwood's man of honour can't tell us, or what it is. We are trying to figure out why Mr. Smallwood thinks we should get \$300 instead of \$85 as a landing fee, and we are allowed to use that information.

**Mr. Smallwood** I think we are getting a little away from the mark. If Gander is costing \$1 million a year operating loss, the first question is who is to pay that loss. It was to find that out, if we could, that this delegation was appointed to go and interview the Commissioner for Public Utilities. We did not exactly find out, but I think that we are satisfied that whoever does pay, it will not be Newfoundland. The rest are minor details compared with who pays the loss....

**Mr. Hollett** ....The point that I rise to mention is found on page 4 of the report of the Transportation and Communications Committee in connection with Gander, wherein it states as follows: "Mr. Neill, the Commissioner for Public Utilities, was asked why the Commission of Government had made this decision. His reply was that it was because Newfoundland was a member of the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation (PICAO) which organisation decided that Gander should be kept upon by Newfoundland." On that point you will remember that I tabled a question to the Hon. Mr. Neill, and he writes me to say that he is in doubt as to exactly what I meant by that question, which I thought was obvious and clear to any person, but he said, "I have my office copy of the minutes of the meeting of PICAO. I cannot recollect any reference to Gander." He goes on to say they attended as part of the British delegation. In the sixth paragraph he says, "I do not understand the reference to PICAO — that Gander should be left open." This report is excellent but this definitely must be an error. It is important that we have this definitely decided, because Mr. Neill said he does