

Wilfred, every word that you say to me is going down in this interview." And it did, every word. I said, "It is believed in this country that the Commission of Government were the means of keeping the wages down, is that true?" He said, "I know nothing about it." I said, "It is believed that you personally, as Commissioner for Public Utilities, are particularly and personally responsible for having done it." He said, "I know nothing about it." And so I pressed him, one question after the other, until finally the interview was published, and it was approved by him. Because before I left he said, "I see you're not making any notes." I said, "Why should I?" "Well," he said, "you're going to write this up and you're not writing shorthand." I said, "I have shorthand in my mind. I remember, I photograph on my mind every word you're saying. I don't need to take any notes." And neither did I. "Well," he said, "in that case, before you print it in the paper, I think you should bring it to me and let me read it." I said, "I'll be glad to do that, but not on condition that you'll change anything." So I went back to the office immediately and wrote it, and came back to him, and I said, "Here's my story." He read it. He didn't change a word. He remarked afterwards that it was one of the most remarkable memories and so on and so on that he'd ever come across. All right! What did he say in the interview? He said this, not freely and openly and without hesitation, it was squeezed out of him, every question I put and every answer he gave, trying to dodge it, trying to evade it, all the answers are down in the interview in print. But I finally squeezed this out of him. I said, "Did you write for example to Argentina, to the commanding officer and tell them to pay only certain rates of pay that are paid in the Highroads Department?" He said, "I did not." "Did you write to the assistant commanding office to that effect?" "I did not." "Did you write to any officer of the American army or navy in Argentina to that effect?" "I did not." "Did you write to the American contractors in Argentina to that effect?" "I did not." I said, "Well maybe I'm on the wrong track." "Did you write to the President of the United States?" "No." "Did you write to the Secretary of State?" "No." "Did you write to the Secretary of War?" "No." "Did you write to anyone in the American government?" He said, "No." I said, "Did you write to anyone?

American, Canadian, Newfoundland or anyone else?" Now it's a matter of fact, I admit it frankly here today, I bluffed him. I made him think I knew something that I did not know. And he admitted that he had written to the magistrate at Placentia. Who was the magistrate then? Mr. Miller can tell us...

Mr. Miller Magistrate Linegar.

Mr. Smallwood He had written to Magistrate Linegar. He admitted it. It's in the printed interview, passed by Sir Wilfred himself before it was printed. He had written to Magistrate Linegar in Placentia, giving him a list of the rates of pay which the Highroads Commission were paying to their employees, blacksmiths and carpenters and electricians and plumbers and truck drivers and bulldozer drivers and tractor drivers and labourers, all the different classifications. He had sent this list to Magistrate Linegar requesting him to take it to the authorities in Argentina, to draw it to their attention and let them know that these were the scales of pay that the Newfoundland government was paying. Now, if Mr. Hannon were in a position to do it, I think that possibly he would tell you that's how it happened in Gander. I know that's how it happened in Gander. They did not go to Sydney Dawes directly.... They didn't go to McNamara Construction. They went to them through a government official with a list of the wages that they were paying in the Highroads Department to their own employees. And they told them, if you pay more than this, you're going to upset our economy because if you pay more then we'll have to pay more to our highroad employees. And if the trade unions had not been formed in those places, if the trade union movement of Newfoundland had not got busy and driven the wages up ... this very day the rates that would be paid would be the rates that were paid in the early stages of the game. It's no thanks to the Commission of Government.

The report said, on page 98, that if the government hadn't done that, the earnings of those Newfoundlanders on those bases would have been supplemented by an additional \$15-20 million. I tell you now, not 15 to 20, \$30-40 million was lost to the workers of Newfoundland by the action of the Commission government in keeping wages down on those bases. I don't know to what extent businessmen, merchants and employers, helped to keep the wages down by influence on