

Smallwood is going through it people can take a note of the points they are going to raise and attack them.

**Mr. Chairman** Yes, I agree.

**Mr. Smallwood** I appreciate Mr. Job's main point, namely that the people are entitled to a complete accounting of this document, entitled to understand it; and I appreciate and know that for months past that has been Mr. Job's viewpoint. The difficulty, however, with his main suggestion, is two-fold. First it presupposes that I am able to take this Grey Book, in the light of the two Black Books, and give a running description, all in one piece, of what confederation would mean to Newfoundland. If Mr. Job is agreeable that I should carry out what it has been rumoured I was going to do — speak for three weeks — I am quite agreeable to do it if the Convention wishes ... and if my voice will hold out that long. I am sure my mind will, but I doubt if, at the end of the three weeks, the public would know very much more about confederation than they would at the beginning. Then I have the further doubt that, having done that, Mr. Hollett, or any other one man, would be in a position to take that whole three weeks' speech and in another three weeks dispose of it.

**Mr. Chairman** ....Mr. Job's suggestion, as I understand it sir, is that you should first make a general statement, that would take you an hour, or an hour and a half, giving only the highlights if you will, and then proceed...

**Mr. Smallwood** I can't do it. I can only do it by taking it clause by clause. The length of time that will be used by any one clause is entirely a matter for the Convention. It depends on how many members wish to ask questions. I will not occupy very much time on a clause.

**Mr. Chairman** If you feel that it can only be dealt with clause by clause, then I suggest to members that Mr. Job's recommendation is still a very sound one, in the sense that you take the clause, read it if you will, give your interpretation of it as briefly and as simply as possible ... whereupon you will resume your seat and members can address you on any questions arising out of the clause under discussion. I still think that Mr. Job's recommendation is calculated to help things along.

**Mr. Miller** Isn't that what we were doing?

**Mr. Chairman** Well, there was some confusion

about it last night.

**Mr. Miller** If I may be permitted to speak, I disagree very much with Mr. Job's suggestion. We have this report here, sir. Whether last night was a good night for some and a bad night for others it is a matter of indifference. There will be good nights and bad nights for both parties in this I guess, but we have it here and I base my disagreement on this: we represent Newfoundland district by district. No one here represents Newfoundland as a whole, not even Mr. Smallwood, on this matter.

**Mr. Chairman** That's right.

**Mr. Miller** It is on that basis that I think it would be something that we would regret later if we restricted the rights of individual members to question. I think also that the first construction put on any section of this or any clause of this document going out over the air, if not corrected, if there is a mistake in it, will make a lasting impression; and I feel that if Mr. Smallwood's statements go unchallenged the people will accept them as such, but if there is something in his statement which may be cleared up, I think right there and then is the time to do it.

**Mr. Chairman** I am inclined to agree with you.

**Mr. Hollett** I maintain that that will destroy the whole idea of committee of the whole. The committee of the whole is not for long-winded speeches at all, even though we might have to make them during the discussion; it is only by question and answer and cross-fire that you can get this across to our people. I think it would be a mistake, as Mr. Miller points out. There are 44 members here, and we all have an equal right to question Mr. Smallwood, and anybody else. With all due respect to Mr. Job, and I thank him for the compliment he has paid me, I would not accept that under any conditions, and I think we proceeded beautifully last night, and I think we got somewhere.

**Mr. Newell** In the early part of this Convention, when reports were brought in here, we took and read them section by section, and had a discussion on each section as we went along.... It did seem to me that we got the meat out of these things. We only departed from that procedure in the last two reports presented here, and these were read *in toto* at first, and then discussed by sections that had no reference to each other, and I leave it to you whether we got the meat out of