

came sometime since then. I have an armful of them down there, we all have, marked "Secret" and "Confidential" in broad red on the cover.

Mr. Higgins We only got three of these, you know.

Mr. Smallwood Well, I got dozens.

Mr. Chairman I must hold that these were only received by His Excellency the Governor of Canada, and therefore must be regarded as being the official pronouncements upon the...

Mr. Higgins These were not received from His Excellency the Governor, sir.

Mr. Smallwood No, from the Government of Canada.

Mr. Higgins They were received by us from the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. Smallwood The Department of External Affairs was merely the department through which the government functioned. It was from the Government of Canada.

Mr. Higgins I submit that the Government of Canada did not see these so-called Black Books before they were delivered to us, because they were only completed and finished and delivered to us as we got on the train.

Mr. Chairman Even so, the Department of External Affairs is for all purposes the Government of Canada.

Mr. Higgins I think we are getting away from the point.

Mr. Penney May I suggest that we are wasting too much time on generalities. It is one and a half hours since this Convention was opened, and we have not touched upon this, I don't know what you call it, this Grey Book, and it will be a week tomorrow since we started this business, and we are not down to page 2 yet; according to that we will never get through it till Doomsday, let alone Christmas. I think there ought to be some way, Mr. Chairman, of cutting this down. The whole matter of terms of confederation means one thing to me; it is an attempt to sell out Newfoundland for a price.

Mr. Smallwood I demand that Mr. Penney withdraw that remark.

Mr. Chairman Yes, I am afraid you will have to withdraw that remark.

Mr. Penney If it is inflammatory or not, on your request I will, but certainly not on Mr. Smallwood's.

Mr. Chairman I must ask you to withdraw it.

Mr. Penney I withdraw it at your request, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman The position is that you have dragged me into matters of conscience, and I don't see how I can go around the place probing the minds of the Ottawa delegation, or the Canadian government or anybody else. All I can do, Mr. Harrington, is to ask members to confine themselves to the Black Books and the Grey Book; and if any reference is made to anything else I will require the members desiring to quote from it to satisfy me (1) that he is free to quote from it, and (2) that it is necessary to an understanding of the position as reflected in the Black Books and the Grey Book.

Mr. Bailey As far as I can see we made a mistake in sending this delegation to Ottawa. We should all have gone, and then we would all have the information. I said from the first, whatever information was given, privately or publicly, was given to the Ottawa delegation as servants of this Convention. We are the delegates of the people, and they were sent there by us, and whatever information is private or secret, there is not any more honour in a man from Bay St. George than there is in a man from Trinity South. We are all the same men, doing the same job, and whatever information there is should not be kept from anybody. I can't see why a thing should be secret when 25 or 30 men elected to send these men to get it for them. Now I don't say to put it all over the earth, but we do have private sessions here, and whatever is necessary we should have.

Mr. Chairman I am not going to ask any member to prostitute his undertaking.... I am not going to put any member in the position where he is expected to repudiate an undertaking, that he would regard as confidential and secret the information which was passed to him on that express condition.

Mr. Bailey I agree with you 100%, but any member of a delegation should not be bound by that. That is my meaning.

Mr. Chairman Well, that is something else, but having given that undertaking, then I think it would not only be highly immoral but highly improper for me to suggest that he should violate the confidence reposed in him.

Mr. Bailey Perhaps I have not made myself clear. He should not be asked to do it. After all the Government of Canada was talking to 45