

At this juncture I take it we are at the parting of the ways in this country. Our people have the power and the authority, or will have in May, to select a government of their own choosing, and it is most important that they give their every consideration to which of the two forms of government, or more if they are submitted, which will best serve their interests, and to which we can be most loyal. I am of the confirmed opinion that an elected government, responsible to the people, is the best form of government which this or any other country can achieve, and I hope and trust that when our people come to make up their minds they will also consider that too.

I might say that I am against Commission government. One thing about us, we have a bargaining power today, and we must use it. We can produce fish, ores and wood products. There will always be a world demand for these products. Our job is to sell, and to the highest bidder. If we have other tangible or intangible assets, such as a strategic position, let us sell that too, and to the highest bidder compatible with the best interests of the country. We have got to face facts, Mr. Chairman. We have just fought one war, and anybody can see that we are likely to have to fight another war sometime; how soon we do not know, but we have been told day in and day out that we occupy a strategic position, and it is as well for us to be realistic. People who live in strategic positions run the risk of dying a sudden death, especially in these days of atomic fission. We know our position in the Atlantic Ocean, and it is just as well for us to be realistic and face these facts. Our people are going to live in a strategic position. All right, let us elect a government and get for the people who are doing enough to live in this country, the best possible living that there is in it.

Mr. Chairman, once upon a time we were proud to call ourselves the cornerstone of Empire. I wonder now, cannot we visualise a prouder place in the new world structure to be? Cannot we aspire to be the keystone in the arch of freedom and friendliness between Canada, the United States and the western democracies of Europe? We can only become this keystone if we recover and retain our independence, and endeavour to exploit our resources without let or hindrance.

I will leave out a lot of this here. I am a bit

upset at the moment.

I was referring to the Labrador. We are told that we have vast potential timber wealth there. What are we going to do about it? There's one thing about it, if we do not keep control of it ourselves it will do us no benefit whatsoever. Recently I read in the *Atlantic Reporter* in Canada, which has just been issued a few days ago, under the heading of "Iron and Lumber for Export": "The new discoveries of iron ore in Quebec and Labrador promise the largest source of this vital raw material since the discovery of the Mesabi deposits in Minnesota. Preliminary explorations of this ore body have gone far enough to invite both Canadian and United States governmental and industrial interest. The United States needs Canadian ore desperately, and the new mines open up challenging opportunities for investment of United States capital." I ask you to apply that statement to Newfoundland — Newfoundland ore and Newfoundland timber that's there on the Labrador. Let us ask ourselves, can we recommend any other form of government than one of the two in the motion of Mr. Higgins?

The United States of America, sir, needs all the timber she can get, and needs it badly. I ask you again to think of the potential market for fish and fish products in the United States. We have the fish, and we have the men to catch it, and our fisheries should be the great concern of all Newfoundlanders. By them the great majority of our people must live, and here let us shout from the housetops the praises due to the Fisheries Board under the able chairmanship of Mr. Ray Gushue, and those enterprising firms in St. John's and elsewhere in the country for their initiative in regard to marketing, and their faith in the fresh fish business. Take a walk over to the Southside and have a look at Job Bros. plant, and see one of the finest on the Atlantic seaboard. It is the only one I have seen, but there are many others in the country. Think on these things and again, I ask you, what other form can we vote for except one of the two in the motion? Come with me to Corner Brook and Grand Falls, or go with Mr. Fudge to Curling and Mr. Jackman to Bell Island, or go to Gander and Harmon Field, and back to Fort Pepperell by way of Argentia, and count the Newfoundlanders as they toil, and the men who will make good money at the seal fishery. Let us think on these things.