

ment of Canada.

**Mr. Miller** That is not right ... say a Newfoundland employee has worked ten years with the Newfoundland government; we go into confederation, and he then works ten years with the federal government; he has pension rights after the 20 year period; we will pay his pension for the ten year period as a province and the federal government will pay for the other ten year period?

**Mr. Smallwood** Yes.

**Mr. Miller** That is different from what you said.

**Mr. Smallwood** I said they would pay for the period which they worked for the Canadian government.

**Mr. Watton** If the Canadian government takes over the various services such as the Broadcasting Corporation, they also take over \$100,000 in the Bank of Montreal?

**Mr. Smallwood** Whatever assets they have.

**Mr. Watton** It is the plan of the corporation to spend so much of that money on certain things. If the Government of Canada assumes ownership of that money, is there any assurance that that money won't be spent somewhere else in Canada?

**Mr. Smallwood** No assurance here in the terms, and if any of us, if anyone wishes to look upon the Government of Canada as just trying to bluff us into confederation so that they can fleece us right and left, that is a thing that a man is entitled to believe if he likes, and if that is true then no doubt the Government of Canada once we went in could turn around and lambaste us right away. They could close down the railway here and send it out to British Columbia, they could do all kinds of things! If we think they are a half-decent kind of government, like most governments in the world, then we might reasonably expect that they would give us a half-decent deal; but if they are wholly indecent, if they are just another "Hitler" outfit, they will plunge us down into poverty, they will just suck us dry like a lemon or an orange.

**Mr. Butt** I wonder if Mr. Smallwood could tell us if they discussed that matter at all in Ottawa, or if anything was said about it.

**Mr. Smallwood** We did not discuss it. We did not say to the Canadian government, and particularly Dr. McCann, Minister of National Revenue, under whom it comes, "Look, the

Broadcasting Corporation has roughly a \$100,000 cash surplus in the bank, with which they are going to build a new studio in St. John's, and put up a new transmitter in Grand Falls, and they are doing this, that and the other." What we did say was, "What would be the position under confederation in connection with the Broadcasting Corporation?" We had a discussion on it, and we had a written reply, which you will find somewhere in the Black Books. Their reply was this, "It would become part of the network of the CBC." He said, "We would aim at improving it and enlarging it, and giving the people of Newfoundland a far better average radio broadcasting coverage than they have now." The \$100,000 to which Mr. Watton refers, they would spend that and many another with it, right here in Newfoundland, to make a broadcasting service that would cover the entire island, which our corporation does not do now. After all, look at the estimates, look what they spend on that CBC, it is up in the millions a year.

**Mr. Higgins** Would you personally prefer that we retain it as a province or not? Personally, I mean.

**Mr. Smallwood** I will put it to you this way. If we became a province and we had to elect our House of Assembly, and I were running as a member and happened to be on the winning side, I would love to have that Broadcasting Corporation as a sort of private toy of my own. Whether that would be good for Newfoundland is another thing. I would hate to see the Broadcasting Corporation become a political tool for politicians. If it becomes part and parcel of the CBC, a national network reaching from St. John's to Vancouver, I think the people and the employees will get a square deal from it. I would not like to see the Broadcasting Corporation become just a tool for politicians, which I am afraid it would if it were controlled by an elected Government of Newfoundland. It is bad enough now with the Commission controlling it. I don't believe one story in one hundred that you will hear of the "dictatorship" and the way the Broadcasting Corporation is used by the government. I think, as a matter of fact, when you look back over the years since it was started, I think the Government of Newfoundland, the Commission of Government, has been very clean and decent about it. I don't think they have used it as a political tool.