

money and my time.

Mr. Newell A couple of days ago we reached a point where individuals had asked questions to which they had not received answers and the answers were necessary. We left it to the Steering Committee to determine the method of procedure. Apparently the Steering Committee did not agree unanimously. While I cannot agree with everything Mr. Crosbie has said, I am certainly in sympathy with him on one point. While I would like to see this Convention over as quickly as anyone else, I do not see the sense of quibbling for four or five days without the information. That is all we did this afternoon — quibbled. Let us adjourn until we have the information to go on with.

Mr. Hollett I disagree with Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Newell. These two Black Books are sent us by Ottawa and we are supposed to do the best we can by telling the people of this country their contents. Although we have asked some questions which have not been answered, and although we have asked questions which never will be answered, I do not believe that is any reason why we should hold up the debate. If you will bear with me, on the particular question I asked today — a breakdown of the \$9.4 million — it is absolutely immaterial in one sense except that it would help us to understand a little more. That \$9.4 million has to be taken as read; that is not going to be changed, as far as we know. If the question which I asked today has any bearing on holding up the Convention, I here and now withdraw that question. Let us tell the people what is in the books. Let us get it over with; then forget it.

Mr. Chairman I think Mr. Crosbie was fair when he pointed out that it is not possible for Mr. Smallwood to be expected to break down these figures or to give detailed information in respect of matters he has not got the information about. Either he can or he cannot. Only he can decide that. If there are other matters which have no direct bearing upon the questions which have been forwarded, it is rather a pity that the House should rise at this particular time. I suppose they will have to be touched upon if the report has to be fairly debated. I am entirely in the hands of the House.

Mr. Job I would like to say a few words on that point. It seems to me we cannot get ahead with

this debate on this Canadian question, because a great many of the figures in this Grey Book are grossly wrong. How can we possibly put that document or anything like it before the electorate? To get the information, I am convinced it is going to take months. Are we going to sit here, keep this Convention sitting all that time, until we get it? Or are we going to do what I think should be done? These figures have been challenged. If we are not going to get the correct information within a reasonable time, I am of the opinion that we should simply vote this thing out. I do not see how we could put before the country figures we have not approved. Major Cashin pointed out one glaring case, these liquor figures, where the estimate given by the Canadian government was \$400,000 and it seems it should be \$1.6 million. If Major Cashin's contention is correct, those figures generally should be increased by 20%. Surely the basis upon which the offer has been made would be materially changed. They base their offer on the fact that they are expecting to get from Newfoundland \$20 million; that is perfectly clear in the Grey Book. If they are going to get \$24 million, then surely they could make their offer a better one. I have great sympathy with Mr. Smallwood, and those people who spent a great deal of time on this confederation issue, who have it honestly at heart. But the confederation question would not be dead if we turned it down. It would be impossible, in my opinion, for this Convention to recommend that confederation be placed on the referendum paper, unless we are sure that these figures are correct.... I do not want people to think I am against putting this before the country. I think there are people interested in this and they should have all the information we can give them. If that information is incorrect, we have no right whatsoever to put it before them. I think that is all I have to say about it. I do not think if it was turned down, the time we have put in on it has been wasted. I think it will come in very useful at some future time. I think this whole question of confederation must be a matter of negotiation between governments; it is utterly impossible for us to negotiate, and that is what we will be doing if we go back and say, "Your figures are wrong, based on wrong information".

Mr. Chairman I don't accept that position. If you ask a man for better particulars you are not