

Department Expenditures". It took a question from Mr. Hollett to get some information on it. I have not seen the answer. Here is the position I take: the members of the Ottawa delegation looked at this \$9 million, surely they should have asked about it. They took what they gave them and brought it home. That is the way it appears. We have asked the Ottawa delegation to give us some idea of what these expenditures would be, and through what particular channels the monies will be disbursed, but they have failed to give us any concrete answer. They do not know definitely and can only surmise. Again I am forced to point out that nearly all the estimates contained in these Canadian proposals, given us through the efforts of the Ottawa delegation on behalf of the Commission government, are absolutely fictitious and most unreliable. They are based on nothing concrete. The Ottawa delegation, through Mr. Smallwood, has admitted to this Convention that these estimates of both revenues and expenditures contained in the Grey Book were prepared by the federal government of Canada months before the Newfoundland delegation went to Canada.

Mr. Smallwood I never said that.

Mr. Cashin You told us that in the Steering Committee. Mr. Higgins, Mr. Hollett and Mr. Hickman were there and they know I am telling the truth. We will have a showdown on this.

Mr. Chairman I do recall a statement that something was prepared; but frankly, honestly, I do not recall at what period it was prepared.

Mr. Cashin It is too bad we do not keep minutes of those Steering Committee meetings.

Mr. Smallwood Let me first say that I said at the Steering Committee that the bulk of the material given to us by the Canadians was prepared long before we arrived. The first public meeting was held that afternoon. They presented us with two volumes of black books; not these Black Books.

Mr. Cashin Where are they? They are not the same.

Mr. Smallwood That is smart. You do not want the solid truth. You want to get off a few gags. I am not dumb.

Mr. Cashin You are not dumb — you occupied 70% of the time in this Convention, talking for the last 16 months. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, on what authority or on what basis were these figures prepared by the Ottawa experts. Who

asked the Canadian government to have these estimates prepared? On what supposition did the Canadian government anticipate a delegation from this Convention? When Mr. Smallwood went to Ottawa shortly after the Convention election in July, 1946, did he inform the Canadian government that such a delegation would be forthcoming and did he request the Ottawa experts to prepare those estimates at that time? Is it not conclusive proof, Mr. Chairman, that this whole confederation idea had been planned long before this Convention met here over 16 months ago? Is it not just a further confirmation of the facts of history, that it has been the policy of the imperial government for nearly 80 years to force Newfoundland into confederation? Is it not definite proof of this whole scandalous transaction, and that the Commission government, who are the local agents in Newfoundland for the British government, are aiding and abetting the present move? Let me repeat what I have frequently stated before: that if this is not the case, why has not the United Kingdom government carried out its solemn agreement made with the Newfoundland government in 1933? Lord Addison refused to tell us when he was confronted with this matter in London last May. Is it a case of the British government treating its sacred pledges to one of her own dominions as just merely another scrap of paper? If that is not so, then will someone tell me why this particular agreement has not been carried out? I appeal to His Excellency the Governor to come out and tell the people of Newfoundland why His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has failed to keep its promise to the Newfoundland people. In that agreement there was no mention made of confederation with Canada, conventions or plebiscites. The people of this country are entitled to know the truth in this respect and I know of no other person in the country today more capable of telling them the truth than His Majesty's representative. The time has arrived, Mr. Chairman, when all cards should be laid on the table and this trifling with the people and their rights should cease immediately.

There are niggers in the woodpile somewhere, Mr. Chairman, and I think that after 16 months existence of this National Convention, the delegates here today know that the niggers are the United Kingdom government and the Canadian