

mitted to this house for their approval.

Mr. Fudge I second that motion.

Mr. Chairman It has been moved and seconded that the motion by Mr. Hollett be adopted. It has been seconded by Mr. Fudge.

Mr. Higgins Question.

Mr. Chairman Are you ready for the question?

Mr. MacDonald I am afraid I can't accept Mr. Hollett's explanation. This motion distinctly gave permission to the Steering Committee to prepare a detailed statement of the questions to be submitted to His Majesty's Government. Here we have a report practically the same as the motion, without any other explanation than that which was included in the motion itself. If there is an explanation I am afraid I can't accept it. The point is, if we are to appoint a delegation to go to the United Kingdom, is not this Convention and the people of the country entitled to know just what the delegation is going for? They are going over to consult the home government on the public debt. Now the public debt includes quite a number of questions. Are you going to the old country to say that we would like to have this public debt cancelled? All sorts of questions arise out of that. I am disappointed that the Steering Committee did not go into the questions raised in the original motion, and give us some information as to what they are about to do. It looks as if the Steering Committee are asking us to appoint a delegation of six and practically give them a blank cheque. I think the Convention is entitled to know at least the main questions in regard to the public debt, or the interest-free loans, or the development loans, and the various base deals. Is there any information to give this Convention? I am very disappointed in this report. They have had somewhere around ten days to discuss this, and I think we should have the information.

Mr. Newell I support the stand taken by Mr. MacDonald. I can appreciate the reticence of the Steering Committee to broadcast to the world at large questions which they do not want everyone to know about, but there are a great many questions in connection with some of these items that have already been talked about so much, and broadcast to the world so often, that if the world has chosen to listen, it must by now know as much about these things as we do. However, the main criticism I have is this: if this were a report back to this Convention from the Steering Com-

mittee listing the various headings for the discussion with the Dominions Office, and it were to go no further than that, and we were to accept it for further preparation of a brief, I think I should be prepared to accept it; but I wonder what sort of reception we would get from the Dominions Office if we forwarded a communication stating that we should like to discuss the public debt, interest-free loans, development loans, etc. One of the members from Grand Falls said that a delegation going to England will have to be briefed. Of course it will. Presumably the delegation meeting us on the other side will also have to be briefed. I don't imagine they would turn over the Cabinet to us for a week or ten days. It is only reasonable to suppose that we should know more details about the things they are to discuss. I wish to register my disappointment with this report.

Mr. Keough Mr. Chairman, I thoroughly agree with what Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Newell have said. This thing here is a hopelessly inadequate briefing. As far as I am concerned the leading question I want to see asked, the leading question as far as Newfoundlanders are concerned is this: is the British government prepared to entertain the idea of a return of Commission of Government as it is now, or a modification of it, if a number of people in Newfoundland express a desire to have it retained? I have no guarantee that this question is going to be asked. I want the delegation to be able to answer "Yes" or "No" to that question, and under what circumstances.

Mr. Chairman I would like to draw the attention of members to the fact that you have to read this detailed statement of matters to be discussed with the British government with the resolution itself. Is there any further discussion?

Mr. Miller Mr. Chairman, I hope it is not getting fashionable, but I really want to offer my word of dissatisfaction with the report too. After eight or ten days of the Steering Committee working on a report, sent out expressly to bring us back a detailed report, they come back with a curtailed report. Practically the only change in it is when they break up one clause and make two out of it, and the two clauses have less scope than the first one, and that particular clause was a very important one as well. The whole thing, as I see it, is the consummation of all the findings of the Convention. I don't agree with Mr. Hollett when he says that those who will proceed to England will