

are different from any other cries of children. And having gone through that experience, having had contact with it, I make the statement that I fear the return of responsible government, fear it might bring back those conditions again. I said it is no idle expression of mine when I say that. People will say to me, "It does not have to happen again", "It may never happen again." Well, all I have to say is that it may happen again and I do not want to take a chance on it. We have no guarantee that it will not happen again. It probably will, and I do not want to make the blunder of having responsible government by my giving any support to it. It is happening already, and 13,000 people are on the dole in this country and in Labrador.... I have no doubt but the long and hungry month of March will add other thousands to the long list on the dole. There are indications of hard times coming to this country. As I sit in this Convention within these sheltered walls, surrounded by the conveniences and comforts of city life which I have enjoyed for the past 16 months, I find I am not as keenly sensitive of what is going on in this country and in Labrador, I am not as sensitive as perhaps I might be. But the doors of this Convention will not close very long before I will be smack up against that kind of thing again. And, sir, if it has to come; if I have to face it again and go through it, in my work, I do not want to have to say to myself that I should not have given support to the kind of government under which this kind of thing exists. Let us try something else. There is another way out, to my mind. I feel I cannot conscientiously support return of responsible government to this country.

As far as Commission of Government is concerned, I am not going to vote for it. I am not going to support it unless there is no other alternative given to me. If the Convention leaves me and the people with no alternative, I think it will have failed miserably. I do not think it will.... I notice that our government at the present time has been receiving a very severe thrashing during the past 16 months, beginning from the very early days. It has been a left to the jaw and a right to the jaw and some of the punches have been under the belt. I want to go on record again as saying I am not going to be a part of all the punches given to Commission of Government and the Dominions Office that have been given in this Convention, unfairly I think. We have a right to

criticise, many reasons to criticise them, but we have no reason to go to the extremes we have gone, and whoever has done it, I am not going to be a part of it. I think the darkest peak of this National Convention has not been the verbal battles we have had, or the small talk we have engaged in, but the charges of dishonesty, and the attacks upon the British government and Commission of Government and the Dominions Office that have been made — shameful changes, I think. That is going to be perhaps the only condemnation that is going to be brought down in history upon us and our work in this Convention.

Commission of Government has been described as a caretaker government. It has been that, and the time has come when we can take care of ourselves. The time has come for the Commission of Government to go and when it goes, it will go with my blessing. I would like to pay tribute to the Commission for what it has done. I am not unmindful of the blunders it has made. Thousands and thousands of dollars it has spent perhaps, to no avail to this country. I am not unmindful to its drawbacks. But I am not unmindful of what it has done for the Eskimos in the Labrador trading project. They had a big problem on their hands. About 1,000 Eskimos were scattered among the islands, no means of making a living; lots of fish, but they had no means of catching it. Now after a few years of Commission of Government, many of these Eskimos have the means whereby they can make an honest living, and when the time comes to adopt a form of government to take over control, will have a great foundation to work upon, especially in northern Labrador. A great future is in store for them under a proper form of government. I shudder to think what would have happened if it had not been for the interference of Commission government on behalf of these primitive races of Labrador.

The time has come when we must dispense with this Commission of Government and make our choice. They go with my blessing, and I am pleased to be able to support the motion before the Chair to give the people of this country of ours these two forms of government as a part of their choice in the coming referendum.

**Mr. Ashbourne** I had prepared some remarks to follow out this line of argument on the motion, but after we came back this evening Mr. Higgins altered his motion. Personally, I would not want