

me it seems a very fair suggestion, everybody will be happy then.

For the benefit of the member from Bonavista Centre, I would quote to him the words of Sir Walter Scott:

Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
"This is my own, my native land?"
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned,
As home his footsteps he hath turned,
From wandering on a foreign strand?
If such there breathes, go, mark him well:
For him no minstrel raptures swell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim,
Despite these titles, power, and pelf,
The wretch, concentrated all in self,
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,
And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unhonoured and unsung.

Mr. MacDonald Mr. Chairman, in spite of the quotation just made by Mr. Higgins, I heartily support the motion now before the Chair with the same sense of duty as a member of this Convention, as I did when I supported Mr. Higgins' motion to recommend two possible forms of government to be placed before the people at the forthcoming referendum. I contend, sir, that any member of this Convention who does not support this motion places himself in the unenviable position of trying to restrict the people whom they represent in their free choice of forms of government. I suggest to the gentlemen who have political aspirations, and who intend to oppose this motion, that they are making a political mistake.

Our Newfoundland people generally — and I know them fairly well — are a fair-minded race, and although there are some who will oppose federal union with Canada, yet they will likely resent any attempt to restrain their friend or neighbour from exercising his or her right to choose the form of government he or she wishes, even though his neighbour's political leanings may not be the same as his own. The spirit of fair play is one of the attributes of our people. I throw out the hint to members concerned freely, Mr. Chairman.

I do not know, sir, whether any of the members of this Convention came here with any mandate from their district to choose or support any par-

ticular form of government. I certainly did not. I understood, and I think rightly, that I was chosen to come here to consider and discuss the financial and economic position of Newfoundland and recommend possible forms of government as it applied to the welfare of Newfoundland in general; not any district in particular. We are a National Convention, not a group of men representing districts only. And in passing, I consider it was a good idea of the Commission of Government to have residents representative of the country as a whole, inexperienced and all as they might be. Otherwise, we might have had a National Convention made up of residents of the Avalon Peninsula, who might possibly hold the same opinion, as one of the members of the Convention from St. John's, who intimated that as far as he was concerned, the Avalon Peninsula was Newfoundland.

Mr. Chairman, I have endeavoured during the life of this Convention, to maintain an attitude of neutrality as between the different political ideologies. Indeed, I was named by a certain radio commentator as "Middle-of-the-road MacDonald". I take that as a great compliment and thank the commentator for pointing out that I was trying to do the job I was sent here to do.

Now that our work as a Convention is at long last coming to an end, and we are asked as individuals to make our preference as to the particular form of government which, in our opinion, will be for the best interests of our country and its people, I find it is time to step off the middle of the road, and I must admit that it has been pretty lonely there for a long time.

Mr. Chairman, after due consideration, and trying not to be influenced by the impassioned oratory of my friend Major Cashin, or the fiery eloquence of my friend Mr. Smallwood, but judging wholly by the evidence before us, I have come to the personal conclusion that federal union with Canada is the most acceptable form of government for Newfoundland out of the three choices before us, and the one which will be in the best interests of our country and for the following reasons:

1. We will not forfeit the democratic way of life we talk so much about; no person can reasonably think that the Canadian way of life is not democratic.
2. Federal union with Canada will reduce our