

Matters to be Discussed by the Delegation with
the United Kingdom Government

1. National debt;
2. Military, naval and air bases in this country;
3. Gander airport;
4. Interest-free loans;
5. Any matters relating to the future economic position of Newfoundland.

Mr. Chairman That portion of your address which contains, apparently, notice of motion cannot be included on the record at this stage. A notice of motion must be given at another time. You may renew your notice of motion before the House rises.

Mr. Smallwood There are one or two things I would like to say in reply to Major Cashin and Mr. Hollett. With one thing Major Cashin said, I am in the deepest and profoundest agreement. I jotted down his words: "The fate of this country does not rest with this Convention, but with the common people.".... The fate of Newfoundland will be decided by the people of Newfoundland when they vote in the national referendum sometime this present year, and not in the dim, hazy future that Mr. Hollett has referred to. All this Convention can do is what the law gives it authority to do; and the authority is the National Convention Act under which we were all elected. Two pieces of authority we got when elected — one, to look into the condition of the country, economically and financially. How is she likely to shape up in the next 15 or 20 years? The second piece of authority was this; that having taken as good a look as we know how, to suggest and recommend to the Dominions Office a number of forms of government to be laid before the Newfoundland people; so that they will be able to decide for themselves, what form of government they think they want. That is quite a lot of authority.... In connection with the forms of government that we may recommend, Mr. Job very wisely and in the spirit of statesmanship, brought into this house a couple of weeks ago a motion. And what did that motion say? That it is *essential* that this National Convention take immediate steps to find out what Britain might be prepared to do for us if we went on under Commission government or if we went back to responsible government or if we had some other kind of government. And it was essential for us

to find out also what fair and equitable basis there might be for any federal union of Canada and Newfoundland.... Mr. Job's motion went on to say that we should appoint a committee to go and meet the Governor and the Commission to get their advice as to what steps we can take to get that information. The Committee met the government and they gave us their advice. Their advice was, "Send over and ask the Government of Britain what they are prepared to do; with regard to finding out what fair and equitable basis there may be for a union of Newfoundland and Canada, send to the Government of Canada and ask them." They went further and said, "If you want to send a delegation to London and a delegation to Ottawa, the Convention should ask us to find out whether the British government and the Canadian government would receive such delegations. If they say they will, we will pay the expenses of those two delegations." That is the report that has come in here. Major Cashin pays little attention to the advice of the government. Mr. Hollett pays even less. Mr. Hollett is prepared to send one to London, but not to send one to Ottawa. Major Cashin has not made it clear whether he is in favour of sending one delegation or another. This Convention has gone on record, with a small number of us voting against it, not including myself, in adopting Mr. Job's motion, to say we consider it essential that immediate steps be taken to secure this information; also, whether it is possible to take up discussions with the United States. In justice to the Commission of Government, I must refer to what Major Cashin said about that. He states the government says this business of tariffs, trade treaties and trade are matters for government and government, they should be handled through diplomatic channels. Then he says the late Chairman and Professor Wheare both said that you can send a delegation to Washington. Then you, sir, interrupted him and pointed out that what the late Chairman and Professor Wheare referred to was a delegation going to the States, not to deal with customs or trade matters, but to deal with the federal union of Newfoundland and the United States. He acknowledged this, then went straight on and argued it was inconsistent. Professor Wheare, he continued, said we could and the government says we cannot. Two entirely different kinds of delegations were referred to; one