

ordinary good sense, a union of the two countries can be finalised within two years. I feel positive, Mr. Chairman, that those who favour such an important step are not seriously considering the grave implications of what might be the result of a headlong plunge in the dark. Has the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King not clearly intimated that the deal could only be finally negotiated with a sovereign government of Newfoundland? I am very, very doubtful that the British government would recognise a deal sponsored or negotiated by such an unauthorised and unofficial body as

such matters, and we have no legal or moral right to attempt to bluff or pretend to our people that we have. In seeking a basis of terms for union, we have fully exhausted our rights in the matter and it now rests with the people who would favour union to elect a government to negotiate the best possible terms.

Mr. Smallwood has stated that 99 out of every 100 of our people want confederation. How low does he think the mentality of our people has fallen to believe such trash? There may be, and no doubt are, a lot of people who want confederation if they can get fair and equitable terms; but we all mix with most of the same people and we find that pretty close to nine out of every ten are a bit dubious about these so-called terms, and almost all feel we should have self-government restored, and the two parties enter the field and test the people fairly in a general election next fall. A lot of people wanted Commission, but cursed them less than a year after they were appointed. This business of confederation must be a matter put fairly on the shoulders of the people through their elected representatives, and if seven men can run the country by Commission, so can seven men run it by any other form of government. In my opinion the high number we have always had to run a one-man business has been responsible for many of our past ills.

Mr. Smallwood said our people are not going to be fooled again as they were in 1869, neither will they be fooled by the lies of 1948. I must agree with him. I give our people full credit of possessing good sense to judge fairly who is putting over the lies and false propaganda in 1948. On the whole our people are a wise, cautious lot. They have followed the proceedings of this Convention with a keen ear to every word,

and they will judge wisely on what in their opinion carries wisdom or hot air.

We heard the best communistic speech here on Friday that was ever delivered in Newfoundland. In fact, it surpassed anything I have ever heard on a soapbox in Hyde Park, and I venture the opinion that if the same speech was delivered in Canada, the USA or Great Britain, the party delivering it would be convicted in court for such utterances. It was only a few days ago Mr. Bevin said, "We should not foist our system on Soviet Russia and they have no right to foist theirs on us." Mr. Attlee said, "We cannot have theirs without sacrificing human rights and liberty." Mr. Bevin said, "We are resolutely opposed to the Communist way of life." Britain, he said, was opposed to the Communist conception of uniformity. "The essence of democracy is difference of opinion, free discussion and tolerance of the other people's point of view. The world we want to see is one in which there are a number of diverse and different units as compared with the Communist world, in which, we might say they try to make Newfoundland a copy of Russia." Mr. Churchill supported both Mr. Attlee and Mr. Bevin in their views. I wonder what these gentlemen will think if they happen to drop in at the committee rooms to hear the recordings of the proceedings of the National Convention? Will Friday's proceedings not give them serious food for thought? I am all for co-operation. I am all for democratic socialism; but I am not for installing a communistic dictator in our midst; neither will labour or capital tolerate such an individual or group who attempt to foist it on an unsuspecting public. Canada is teeming with such soapbox orators, but now and then their activities are curbed.

Mr. Chairman, I am of the opinion that a number of people both in the Convention and outside it are favouring confederation going on the ballot paper because they conscientiously believe it would be the best thing in this country, and they are seriously trying to improve the standard of living for those around them. Their intentions are good, but their actions are premature. The Hon. Mr. Job asks this pertinent and pregnant question:

Does he honestly think it is right that terms indicated (not offered) by Canada, which have not resulted from negotiations between