

four of us here today who sat under your chairmanship from 1924-1928: Mr. Bradley, Mr. Ashbourne, Major Cashin and myself. The four of us well know that you were often tolerant with us when you should have been harsh. I remember distinctly, sir, the latter years of that government<sup>1</sup> when you had only one as a majority, and you, with the help of your colleagues, piloted this House through, and the government did not go "busted", to use a common phrase. You did your job and did it well. I believe the members of this Convention agree with me that you are the right man to appoint committees, and whoever you appoint we will be quite satisfied.

**Mr. Vardy** I rise to support the last speaker. I know Mr. Justice Fox, and I do not know of any person more suitable than he is. Before this Convention ends there will be a job for every man elected to it, our responsibilities are tremendous.

This is indeed and always will be an historic occasion in the life of Newfoundland. Those of us who were successful at the polls have been summoned to perform a common task. Let us keep faith with those whose confidence has made these gatherings possible. Let us examine each fact on its merit and as true loyal Newfoundlanders, at all times put our country first. I sincerely hope that the results of our deliberations will be motivated by a keen honest desire to restore to our people a truly democratic way of life.

We have in His Excellency a man of vision and character, who will not be influenced by any who might prove disloyal, a great leader who has the courage of his convictions, and I am satisfied that in future history his name will be associated with those who will make it possible for Newfoundland to take her proper place as a proud member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Gentlemen, we have a job to do, let us be tolerant with one another, always respecting the rights and privileges of each member as the elected representative of his district, and at all times upholding the dignity of the chair. I am sure that our worthy Chairman will allow us plenty of latitude to intelligently discuss any matter which is brought on the floors of the Convention chamber. Those of us who are only boys in politics will at first be inclined to watch the big guns across the Channel, and more or less take full stock of

method of procedure, lest the reporters get one for the *Comic Weekly*; but as time moves on and we are more sure of our ground, I am quite certain that every member will measure up to what is expected of him.

I am not anticipating any real delay in securing all the information available in order for us to eventually arrive at a just and honourable decision as to what forms of government would be best suited to our country....

**Mr. Hollett** I beg to move that the question be now put.

*[The motion carried]*

**Mr. Bradley** I move that the report of the committee as a whole be adopted.

**Mr. Jackman** I would like to speak on a personal matter that applies to all of us. I refer to a report in the *Daily News* regarding yesterday's proceedings. I notice that the report says some of the delegates were absent and it does not give the names. I am from an outport and I am certain that my supporters at home are watching the papers daily and when they see a report that some of the delegates were absent, it is quite possible that they are going to mark me down as being off the job. I do not think a delegate should absent himself from a session unless under circumstances beyond his control. When a member is unable to attend he should notify the Secretary and in future the names, as regards absenteeism, should be given in the reports.

**Mr. Brown** I would be the first to disagree with that. If this Convention lasts six months, six weeks or two years, I am not going to be here every sitting and there are few members of this Convention who have not business that will not permit their attending all sittings. I may have to go to a meeting of the Woods Labour Board or some other such convention; I cannot be in both places at the one time and one thing is just as important as the other. Down through the years there never was anything in the rules, to my knowledge, that prevented a man's being absent.

**Mr. Chairman** Quite right.

**Mr. Brown** Why should we adopt a rule saying a man must be in his seat at every session? I know that the people whom I have the honour to represent will not expect me to be here every sitting. I have as much interest in my country and as much interest in this Convention as anyone else, but it

<sup>1</sup>The government of Walter Monroe, 1924-1928.