

American continent are focussed on us, because of our strategic importance and because of the natural resources of both Labrador and Newfoundland. Can we not hold on to this a little longer and find out what it will really mean to us? After all, only yesterday, through the efforts of Mr. Fudge, we learned officially that somebody had offered \$150 million for Labrador.

**Mr. Smallwood** No, no, no — no such thing.... No one has made any offer at all, no one.

**Mr. Chairman** .... The position is that the offer was allegedly made by an undisclosed principal.

**Mr. Smallwood** No sir, it's not even that.

**Mr. Chairman** You read the letter, but the name of the person was not made known.

**Mr. Smallwood** The letter merely said that somebody wrote the department suggesting that it be sold. The one who wrote it wasn't offering to buy it. He didn't say that anyone was offering to buy it. He merely up and said it should be sold for \$150 million. That's what's in the letter....

**Mr. Chairman** If it's important I'll make a decision, so we'll all see what the letter contains.

**Mr. Fudge** I said before, Mr. Chairman, I read that letter.

**Mr. Chairman** If you don't mind Mr. Fudge, please, ....

The Department of Natural Resources  
St. John's

January 13, 1948

Sir:

With reference to your letter of 9th January, 1948, I am directed to inform you that in a letter to the Department of Natural Resources dated the 15th October, 1947, the suggestion was made that Labrador should be sold for \$150,000,000. The letter did not indicate who was the prospective purchaser and there were no further developments.

I am sir, your obedient servant

J.J. Carter

Secretary for Natural Resources  
Secretary, National Convention.

The answer is, my interpretation of that letter is it was not an offer. You can't do business with a man who doesn't disclose himself. The letter is plain and clear.... The suggestion was made that Labrador should be sold for \$150 million. The letter did not indicate who was the prospective purchaser. And there were no further developments.

**Mr. Smallwood** So there was no offer?

**Mr. Chairman** Not at all. It's incapable of that interpretation.... Go ahead, Mr. Fowler, please.

**Mr. Fowler** I really brought it up because I knew there were some doubts about it, and I think it's very good to have it cleared up. Gentlemen, even though we have been dead politically for the past 14 years, let us bestir ourselves, awake to the importance of our inheritance, and if any advantages are to be had, let us as Newfoundlanders reap the benefits, and if Canada or the United States are interested, we will be in a position to do business with them as friendly neighbours. For these reasons then, it is my opinion that responsible government, the goal of all civilised people, should be restored to Newfoundland so that the people should be free to do business with the United States as well as Canada, if they so desire. And in any event, they would be free to act according to the dictates of the country. Thank you.

**Mr. Crummey** Mr. Chairman, it's a pity almost to spoil that happy relationship we had in Canada, so ably demonstrated by our friend Senator Prospective. I did not intend at this juncture to take any part, but seeing I'm the lone bird of the Ottawa delegation, I thought that possibly it might be thought that I was in accord with the majority of the delegation that returned from Ottawa. I want to say without any shadow of a doubt that I am anticonfederate on the terms that have been brought down here. Mr. Burry, I think, hinted yesterday that if we had had some Newfoundland experts up there we would have been back in possibly three weeks. I'm half inclined to disagree with him on the grounds that if we had had all the experts in Newfoundland and elsewhere, it was not possible to get back before we did. I doubt very much, Major, that we would have been back by the time we did arrive, had not that famous message been sent up and a copy sent to the Prime Minister of Canada.

We went there and we discovered...that we came a little ahead of the time that they would have liked for us to come. True, they said come around June or the 1st of July. But they discovered politically that we arrived a little too early. The suggestion was made that we go home and come back again in September. But we...thought that if we came back the possibilities were that we wouldn't get back again in Septem-