

Wednesday and Friday if members so desire. I realise time is running out, but if it is the wish of members to have their speeches broadcast after the same have been delivered in the chamber, they should take notice of the fact that the evening sessions will of necessity have to be cut down. If, on the other hand, we continue with evening sessions, it may very well be no longer news, but history, by the time it reaches the people of the country, bearing in mind the fact that we will eventually get to the stage where the broadcast will be about seven days behind the actual proceedings....

Mr. Cashin With Mr. Higgins' permission, I want to draw your attention to the fact, first, that two of my questions have not yet been replied to, particularly in connection with the Newfoundland Savings Bank.

Mr. Chairman Captain Warren says he has just received them.

Mr. Cashin We can get it in a minute or two. Another point I would like to bring up is this: as you know we had a private meeting on Friday, in which it was agreed that this Convention would be shut out, so to speak, by His Excellency the Governor on Friday, January 30. I bring up this matter because when the delegation went to England, Lord Addison, when a question was put to him regarding say two or three forms of government there, about making up his mind on it, said ... he might have to seek further advice from the Convention. Well, if the Convention is out of business, then there won't be any Convention to appeal to, and I bring the matter up because I feel that the Convention should not be dissolved.

I realise, Mr. Chairman, there's possibly legal technicalities which say that once we have made our recommendations, the Convention closes off. But I feel that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Governor, so that we would know the result of these recommendations in one way or another. Surely if we make these recommendations we should know what is happening, and we should remain technically a body, not under pay, so that it can be called together at a moment's notice if necessary. I know some gentlemen will be gone, but as Lord Addison pointed out ... and I am not breaking any secrets, he would probably have to ask the Convention for further advice. If the Convention is disbanded

he won't be able to ask it. I bring this to your attention so that you can bring it to the proper authorities, and see what is going to happen. Say we make these recommendations, we are told that within 30 days we should know what is going to happen from the Dominions Office, etc. How long it will take them to do this and that I do not know, and I feel that before the Convention is officially wiped out these things should be settled. I suggest you take it up with the Attorney General, or His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Smallwood I am rather glad Major Cashin raised that matter. As I understand it, the National Convention Act, which created this Convention, contains no provision for the dissolution of the Convention, and certainly the Convention cannot dissolve itself. It has no authority to do that. To be dissolved I suppose one of two methods would have to be adopted; either the government would enact a statute to dissolve the Convention, or else His Excellency, when he comes here on the closing day next week, will issue his proclamation dissolving the Convention, and in either way the Convention would be dissolved. But the question arises — should the Convention be dissolved before the referendum is held? His Excellency, when he comes here next week, could prorogue the Convention instead of dissolving it, and as Major Cashin says, we would go on back to our own business or work, and would not be meeting. But we would still be a Convention for as long only as there would be any point or sense in our being so, and certainly we would not be under pay.

I am glad he mentioned that matter of not being under pay, because I have been waiting for the right moment to point out that there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding in the country amongst the people on this question. A lot of people seem to think we get paid every day, even when we have holidays, even when we recess for Christmas, even when the Convention is not meeting, a lot of people seem to think that our pay goes right on as if we were sitting here all the time. The truth is that is not so, and when Major Cashin says that if the Convention were held together until a later day we would not get paid, I am glad he made that point, so that nobody would think that the only reason we would have this thought in our minds now is trying to hook more money out of it. We would get no money at