

punished ourselves as a people, or we've been punished, with a system of taxation that makes decent living absolutely impossible except when there's a global war raging.

Above everything else, what's wrong with our country is the fact that we have persisted and insisted on acting as though we were a nation, or as though we thought we could be a nation. Whereas the fact is we're only a large family. Most of our trouble stems from that misguided policy. Sir, you could bring Winston Churchill and Ernest Bevin and Herbert Morrison to Newfoundland, and along with them Mackenzie King and Franklin D. Roosevelt if he were alive, and Lloyd George too if he were alive, and you could put those men at the head of affairs in Newfoundland. They could do their best, and their best would not be good enough. They would fail. They would be licked before they started, because it's impossible to make things right for the people of this country so long as we hold out stubbornly against the one thing that can make a prosperous Newfoundland really possible. They would fail so long as they tried to run Newfoundland as a separate independent country pretending that it was a nation. They would fail so long as they failed to link Newfoundland onto a much greater, a much larger, a much more stable unit. That's the first lesson we all need to learn when we come to figure what's wrong with our country and what the cure might be. To stay isolated from the great continent besides which God placed us, to persist in a mistaken and hopeless independence, to continue our vain hope of paddling our own canoe, that way has produced untold misery for our people and will produce more misery if we don't wake up to our mistake. And it is also needless, Mr. Chairman, so needless. A great British nation is asked by us, asked by this Convention, to receive a delegation. They received the delegation, and they say, "We invite you to link up with us to make one great strong British nation stretching all the way from St. John's to Vancouver." And what do we do? What do we do? We look suspiciously at them. We thought it was a land full of Hitlers, Hitlers trying to gobble us up, trying to rob us of our little store of natural resources, trying to get rich out of us. We pick holes in the terms and conditions they offer us. The moment we receive their invitation to join up with them, we get suspicious and put

up every trumpery excuse we can think of for not accepting. Yes, by all means let us have national pride, but let us also have national common sense. Now, sir, I turn to Mr. Northcott. Just two points. He tells us he wants our Newfoundland people to know how the burden of taxes under confederation would compare with our burden of taxes today. He asks the question, "Would federal, provincial and town council taxes all put together be more or less than we're paying out now in taxes?" That's a very fair question — a very practical question and a very useful question, and I thank Mr. Northcott for asking it. Today our taxes amount to about \$40 million a year, not counting municipal or town council taxes. That's what we're paying the Commission of Government, \$40 million a year. Under confederation we would pay taxes to both the federal government of Canada and the provincial government of Newfoundland. What would these amount to? That's what Mr. Northcott wants the people of Newfoundland to know. The Government of Canada estimates that they would collect \$20 million a year profits in federal taxes. That is if the present rates of taxation continue as they are in Canada, if they don't fall ... and if the present level of economic activity stays as it is now in Newfoundland. Very few of us expect it to do that, for already it has started to drop. \$20 million, the Government of Canada would take. The provincial government of Newfoundland would collect \$5 million or \$6 million a year from us in taxes. At least it would for the first eight years of union. Well, that's a total of say \$26 million a year between the two governments. Mr. Northcott can add to that if he likes. He can add a couple of million to the provincial budget and he can add a couple of million to the federal budget and get a grand total of \$30 million. Even then, our total taxation would fall \$10 million short of what we're paying now. We're paying \$120 a head to our government now. We'd pay at the most \$91 a head under confederation, a saving of \$29 a head. Mr. Northcott may or may not be willing to accept my figures. So I'll stretch the thing all out of shape to see how he'll like it then. Let's say the Government of Canada are as much as 50% out in their estimate — 50% out. They say they'll collect \$20 million from us. Let us say they'll collect \$30 million from us. I say the provincial government will collect \$5-6 mil-