

we might have in this work. That is a criticism that the public is entitled to make. It is a criticism we must take cognisance of. I feel that the feeling is so strong, the work ought to be speeded up and I think this motion should be disposed of one way or another at this time.

**Mr. Job** I have no objection to the sessions ceasing at 11 o'clock. I am convinced that the broadcasting will be done, but not the same day.

**Mr. Smallwood** I have made my point. I am quite sure the broadcasting people will have heard the point and they appreciate the profound interest of the people. I feel they will do everything in their power to see that the people of Newfoundland hear every word said.

*[The motion as amended was carried. The Convention adjourned]*

#### November 17, 1947

**Mr. Chairman** Order please. Since resuming the Chair this afternoon, I received the following letter:

J. B. McEvoy, Esq., K.C., LL.B.,  
Chairman, National Convention,  
St. John's, Nfld.

Sir:

I have to refer to your letter of November 13, setting forth the resolution of the National Convention requesting that the Governor in Commission arrange for the amendment of section 2 of the Convention Act, to enable members of the Convention, absent from sessions because of illness, to vote by proxy upon certain matters.

The Commission of Government have given consideration to this request. Section 3 of the act sets forth the duty and function of the Convention, and empowers the making of recommendations to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom as to possible forms of future government to be put before the people at a national referendum. There is no provision that the recommendations of any particular proportion of the representatives should form the recommendations of the Convention, and the Convention is not empowered to make any decisions as to the forms of government to be put before the people. It is the opinion of the government that, as in the case of committees and commissions having power to investigate and make recommendations, but not having power to make decisions, members of the Convention who hold a minority view on any question are entitled themselves, or with other members of the Convention, to have their recommendations go forward from the Convention. It is therefore difficult to see what purposes could be served by making the

amendment requested. Members absent by illness can no doubt communicate with the Chairman or Secretary of the Convention and have their views on forms of government noted in any and all recommendations.

In view of the foregoing the Commission are unable to agree to the request of the Convention.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W.J. Carew, Secretary.

**Mr. Higgins** I wonder Mr. Chairman if we could have copies of that mimeographed and distributed to members?

**Mr. Chairman** By all means, Mr. Higgins. I should also like to inform the Convention that, arising out of your decision to continue evening sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, the Broadcasting Corporation has been contacted by Mr. Ryan. In fact he has been intermittently engaged in negotiations with that body since Saturday morning. The result is that all evening sessions will be recorded and the Corporation undertakes to rebroadcast the proceedings as nearly as possible, in view of point of time, after the sessions have taken place, as exigencies may reasonably permit and require.

I should also like to inform members that all questions, and in one particular instance, notices given, have been attended to. We decided, or the Information Committee decided, that since the notice of question was given at the last session, and would in the ordinary course be put today, and since it has a bearing upon the Economic Report which is now before the house, that the usual technical formalities ought to be raised, and therefore all questions and notices of questions up to this time have been submitted and attended to so far as we are concerned.