

the Chair. I could not do otherwise without seeking to abridge the rights of our people and without doing injury to my own integrity. My final conclusion in the whole matter is that yet once again must I agree with myself in something that I said a long time ago — that in the great decision that confronts us, even if there be but one man in all this island who wishes to vote for return of responsible government, he is entitled to have the opportunity to do so — even if that one lone individual should happen to be Major Peter Cashin. Even if there be but one man in this island who wishes to vote for union with Canada, he is entitled to the opportunity to do so, even if that one lone individual should happen to be Mr. Joseph Smallwood. And even if there happens to be but one man in this island who wants to vote for retention of Commission of Government, he is entitled to the opportunity to do so — even if that one lone individual happens to be a person of no more consequence than my last forgotten fisherman on the bill of Cape St. George. I said that first many months ago when the Convention was still young. In the meantime I have come upon nothing to convince me to the contrary, so do I repeat it here at the end. I am still of that opinion.

And now as we turn to the casting of our final vote, as we address ourselves to the pinnacle of our endeavour here, there is this that I would ask the Convention to bear in mind: let us remember in this hour, that all the days of our lives the mark of this Convention will be upon us. We can never be free of it, though we flee it down the nights and down the days and down the labyrinthine ways of our own souls. It will remain with us always. We are committed here to the serving of a great purpose in conscience and in honour. And our own conscience will judge us all the days of our lives if we fail in conscience, and history will judge us if we fail in honour. And we shall know no peace of mind again if in this historic hour we fail this land and this people. As, then, we apply ourselves to the final act of recommending the alternatives of government to be submitted to the people's choice, let us bear constantly in mind that it is a matter involving our conscience and our honour to recommend all legitimate alternatives consistent with right reason. In consequence let us at this moment have somewhat more than the courage of our connections. Let us be decided

instead by the courage of our convictions. Let us remember that we shall leave no footprints in the sands of time with feet of clay.

The mark of this Convention will be upon us always in this too. We who are gathered here were by our election to this Convention in some measure set apart. We have the high honour of being the men to whom Newfoundland, at a moment of supreme decision, has turned for guidance. We have had full opportunity to study the elements of the issue that confronts us. We have had greater opportunity than most of our fellows to take the measure of this land and the measure of its necessity. And there has come upon us in consequence responsibility and dedication that will not end with this Convention. To whom much is given, of him much will be expected. And it will surely be expected of us after we have gone forth from here, that we shall serve with greater diligence than most the cause of human dignity and social justice in this land; for we have had greater opportunity than most to see wherein we could come to serve with advantage. Indeed, there devolves upon us the plain duty to go forth from this Convention determined in our hearts and resolved in our souls that we shall leave no stone unturned, that we shall move whatever mountains must be moved, that we shall labour from dawn till dusk, that we shall cease not from argument or action, that we shall know no peace or no rest in our time until — come what form of government there may — we have made the fullest contribution that we may in our own time to the making of this land that we all do love: a land in which there will be peace and happiness and dignity, and enough for all.

Mr. Vincent Mr. Chairman, I am not at the moment concerned with the nebulous conception of economic justice, nor am I greatly concerned with what my friend, Mr. Newell called "economic politics". The case as I see it is simply a motion to put on the ballot in the coming referendum this spring, confederation on the basis of the proposals submitted by the King government to this Convention. Anticipating this, of course, I previously recommended the terms to my constituents and to the country generally when I spoke to Mr. Bradley's motion introducing the proposals some weeks ago.

Mr. Chairman, as odd and strange as it may seem, there are some here who would, after a