

must look for our future economic stability. They are in a sound position, and are likely to continue as far as we can see.... In my opinion all that is necessary now is this: just the five letter word F A I T H, faith in ourselves as individuals, and in our fellow man, and above all, faith in our country....

Mr. Northcott Mr. Chairman, with your permission, and hoping Mr. Smallwood won't interfere, I would like to congratulate Mr. Hickman upon his excellent speech.... What of our future? Some 14 months ago we were sent here by the people of this country as their representatives. For what? To try and find out the true condition of our island home. We started, and after a day or two a monkey wrench was thrown in. Confederation came on the scene. What happened? Confusion has reigned ever since. That is the sum and substance of this Convention today.

Mr. Chairman Order, please.

Mr. Northcott We were sent here to see if our island home is self-supporting or not. We have not got anywhere. After we came here we realised our task was immense. Committees were set up to try to ascertain the true facts of our economy, and whether our country was self-supporting or not. Mr. Chairman, for months we worked in committees, and after many months we brought here the various reports. They were approved, debated, and 45 or 44 members okayed each report in its turn. And so, by piecing together these various reports, did we not piece together at the same time the Economic Report? If we did not, it does not make sense.... They became law, as it were.

Mr. Smallwood No, sir. Point of order. That is absolutely incorrect. No report has yet been adopted — not one.

Mr. Chairman Your point is true, but by virtue of the fact that they have been debated and not objected to, they are tacitly accepted. That is a point, I think.

Mr. Crummey I understood some time ago that no member on the floor, whether he was correct or incorrect, was to be interrupted.

Mr. Smallwood It was a point of order.

Mr. Crummey The point of order was not a point of order. It was questioning a statement made by a speaker on the floor.

Mr. Chairman I have ruled against Mr. Smallwood, so I think it has been disposed of.

Mr. Northcott I don't see why Mr. Smallwood can get up every few minutes and say what he wants to. He has got a lot to say.

Mr. Chairman I beg your pardon. Did you say the Chairman of the Convention had too much to say?

Mr. Northcott No sir, I did not. Mr. Chairman, I am absolutely satisfied that if ever this country was self-supporting it is self-supporting today. When one can pay his bills he or she is solvent. The same can be said of this country. If we can balance our budget and have a surplus left we are financially sound, and Newfoundland today is just that. I wish to refer you to page 5 of the Economic Report. Unfortunately Major Cashin is not here, but perhaps....

Mr. Chairman I would say that if you have any questions, it has been decided by the Steering Committee that it would save time if members might address them, and I will have the Secretary record them, and we will have Major Cashin deal with them in a few days time....

Mr. Northcott You mean all the questions, Mr. Chairman? Thank you. That will cut my time pretty short.... The first I was going to ask was this: page 5: "In 1930 an approach was made to the Canadian government with respect to the payment of a subsidy in connection with the operation of our ship on the Gulf service." I was wondering if Major Cashin took that matter up with the Commission of Government, as to why there was no subsidy given since 1933. The second one was in connection with Gander.... I was wondering if the Committee could find out how many millions of gallons of aviation gas was hauled from Lewisporte to Gander during the year 1946?

Mr. Hickman The answer is no, Mr. Northcott.

Mr. Northcott Some ten million gallons. If they got one cent a gallon it would increase the revenue of the country. I may say though, that there is no duty on aviation gasoline, and I can't see why it should not be. It is very sensible and important to this country, especially when fishermen have to pay high taxes on their gasoline....

Mr. Spencer I have no desire to spend much time in debating this Economic Report, but I am convinced that this committee of the whole is the place to speak of it. There can be no doubt that we are at the moment in a sound financial condition, due in large part to the boom of prosperity