

will see in the welfare section when we come to it, the total number of persons on relief, and costs as broken down by the various districts throughout 1946.

Mr. Cashin It was not my intention to make many remarks on this report, but this involves a huge expenditure of public funds and I think the people should know how the money was spent. This report does not tell it all. There is another report which should have been brought in with this. Are we going to overlook that and pass this report by reading out a lot of figures or are we going to have the whole truth? I would like to know that.

Mr. Ashbourne In reply to Major Cashin, as regards the other report, you know as much about that as I do.

Mr. Cashin The public have not been informed what is going on and the public are entitled to know. All very well to read off a list of figures; look at this \$1,100,000 — \$4,000 overspent. Where is it going to end? Particularly when there are suspicions over the whole department. It should be cleaned up before this report goes any further. It is up to the government to clean it up. If we are going to whitewash everything, it is time to close down the whole Convention. If I am in order I would move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again; and in the meantime find out what is happening to the other affair before we go any further into the matter.

Mr. Crosbie I second that motion.

Mr. Smallwood Before we vote on it, does Major Cashin really mean that?

Mr. Cashin When I make a motion of that kind, I mean it.

Mr. Smallwood I was wondering, if he puts it to a vote — I am trying to picture developments from hour to hour. We have Easter coming up. I

am sure Major Cashin knows the position of the Committee.

Mr. Cashin I understand the position of the Committee. I think this Convention should demand an explanation. This document was given us two or three months ago. Inquiries are going on in one department and the public knows nothing about it. Nasty rumours are going around about this department and I contend we should not go any further until it is cleaned up.

Mr. Chairman I did not recognise at first what you had in mind. I appreciate the situation now. Your motion is still in order, of course. I would like to point out that this Convention has no authority to obtain any such information from the government and if the government refuses, there is nothing we can do about it. In the meantime, I do suggest this to you: that these proceedings can go along. We are not likely to finish the report tonight. Even should we do so, on the committee's report you can raise the question again. I think that would be the better place to raise it.

Mr. Cashin I appreciate your suggestion. This has been on the go for some time. True it does not concern the Convention, but these people are trustees of the people's money. We are the only elected representatives of the people in existence. I hold, whether under the Convention Act or any other act, we should demand and get an explanation into the whole business. If not, we are derelict in our duty here tonight. They saw fit to give us a document two or three months ago. We have kept our mouths shut about it. I want to serve notice on the government that I am going to open my mouth about it. My motion still stands.

Mr. Penney In regard to Major Cashin's motion, I wonder could we not defer action on that at this time and proceed with our work and when the recapitulation of the reports come in, we will

* Breakdown of relief figures:

Food orders	\$803,450.00
Rents	12,993.16
Clothing	114,584.55
Coal (St. John's)	53,786.65
Coal (outports)	48,587.29
Relieving officers (booths)	1,392.21
Miscellaneous lumber, building, repairs	10,523.49
Amount to Glovertown fire sufferers	<u>53,869.90</u>
	\$1,099,187.25