

people of Newfoundland. Highly unlikely." No people in Newfoundland would elect members who would turn around and put a tax on their property....

As a matter of fact Newfoundlanders already pay a property tax. Who pays it? The people of St. John's pay it. They pay it now. They have been paying it since the 1880s — for 60 years the people of St. John's have been paying a tax on their property, on their homes and buildings and land, on their shops, on their stock of trade in the shops, the people of St. John's have been paying that property tax for 60 years. Sometimes it has happened that the man could not pay that tax. That has happened in St. John's, and it has happened that the city council has taken his house from him and sold it to pay his taxes.... Mr. Hollett, in the speech to which I am replying, read out an act of the legislature of Nova Scotia, an act which authorises city councils, or town councils in Nova Scotia to collect certain taxes. He did not read out the act of the legislature of Newfoundland, which authorises the city council in Newfoundland to collect property taxes. He did not read that out. He had a right not to read it out, a perfect right, but I have a right to point out that there is such an act in Newfoundland, passed in this very chamber, authorising — you will have lots of occasion to applaud before I am through, and Mr. Fudge, who I believe is supporting confederation, will have lots of time to applaud before I am through.

Mr. Fudge Whatever I am or am not is none of your business. I am as good a man as you are.

Mr. Smallwood Well, prove it. Come on, we will go outside.

Mr. Fudge Do you think you can frighten me?

Mr. Chairman Take your seat please, Mr. Fudge. Order, please. Order. You have absolutely no right Mr. Smallwood to refer to Mr. Fudge in the way that you did, and he is not put in the position of proving his honesty.

Mr. Smallwood Well, why did he do what he did?

Mr. Chairman Before you go any further I must ask you to withdraw that statement.

Mr. Smallwood What statement?

Mr. Chairman The statement you just made to Mr. Fudge.

Mr. Smallwood I would ask you to ask him to withdraw his handclap.

Mr. Higgins I move a recess, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman We will take a recess for 15 minutes. Will the members of the Steering Committee and Information Committee meet me please?

[Short recess]

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, when we rose for the recess I was addressing myself to the question of property taxes — who taxes what, and I had got as far as pointing out that if Newfoundland becomes a province, the Government of Canada will not collect any property taxes on the people of Newfoundland.... And I had got as far also as pointing out that the provincial government is not likely to impose a property tax. What we have left therefore are the town councils and the city councils. We have only one city council, that is St. John's, but we have at the present time 20 town councils, and we have ten others that are in the process of being formed. That would give us 30, and I dare say, in the course of time, we will have other town councils, because it is the policy of the government, and has been now for several years, to encourage the people of the larger towns and settlements in Newfoundland to form up their own town councils, and these councils are doing such good work that we hope to have more of them in the near future. My friend Mr. Vincent there is a great enthusiast on this matter, and my friend behind me, Mr. Miller, is the chairman of the town council in the Placentia area, and many people are growing very enthusiastic about these town councils, because a town council is formed in a community to do things for that community which no one else will do. The Government of Newfoundland can hardly be expected to collect the garbage from the homes of the people in St. John's. The people of St. John's would scarcely expect the Government of Newfoundland to do that, to use money that the government collects from all Newfoundland to collect the garbage from their doors. The people of St. John's could not expect the Government of Newfoundland to give them concrete sidewalks and drains and curbs and light their streets for them, and to provide parks and other conveniences and comforts of modern civilisation. The people of St. John's could not expect the government to do that, and they don't expect them to do it, and the government don't do it, these things are done by the city council; and in