

confederation? Not at all. He is quite sober about the whole thing. I have talked to many of them lately. I have been talking to a Newfoundlander who sold his home in Canada, gave up his job and returned here because he could not pay his income tax. I have heard from Canadians who say that Newfoundlanders would be crazy to enter union with Canada. And by the way, Mr. Chairman, I've heard of some of the Canadian politicians who say how generous Canada is in taking over our national debt. Why don't some of our Ottawa delegation tell us how foolish we are to take over Canada's huge and ever increasing public debt? Only this morning I came across the following in the *Financial Post* dated January 3, 1948.

Mr. Chairman There's some articles you can't quote from.

Mr. Fudge I'm not quoting, but Vancouver in November had 1,000 jobs opened and 12,000 applications — 12,000 applicants. Since then things are believed to have gotten worse. The same thing is true in the Maritimes and to a lesser degree in other provinces. There is a flash message to you from Mr. Smallwood's Garden of Eden.... The proof of the pudding they say is in the eating, and the best voice is the voice of experience. In this case the voice of the people who live in Canada.

Just one other point. It seems to be forgotten that Canada's present position financially and economically is the offshoot of a war boom. It is not a solid peace-time economy, and we must also bear in mind that the recent surplus announced by the Canadian government is not earned revenue. As you have heard Major Cashin say, Canada is at present a hard-up country. She is short of dollars and is even talking about holding a sweepstake to obtain American dollars. Her people are entering on the road of austerity, which is only a more polite term for poverty. That is the position now. What might it be this time next year? By then Canadian taxes and Canadian prices may be gone sky high. The baby bonus may be a thing of the past. What consolation will it be for us to say then that that was not what they told us in the Grey Book or the Black Book? These are the things which we must consider, not financial statements and the like. It is time we put dreams of Santa Claus aside. Christmas is over. When it is all boiled down, we will find that this

Black Book and the Grey Book are nothing more than an empty gesture which can disappear like a bubble overnight. Is that the sort of thing they want us to base the future of this country and its people on?

Mr. Chairman, I conclude my remarks in the full confidence that when the people of this country realise what this proposal of confederation means to them in their everyday life, when they realise the rain of taxes which will descend on them from every direction, when they realise the overlying plan which has as its object the swallowing up of this country, then I have confidence they will know how to deal with the situation — just as I trust the members of this Convention will know how to deal with this costly and worthless Ottawa report when the time comes for voting on it. At the very opening of this Convention I said that this good old ship, a ship of state in my opinion, was not in a position to send out an SOS to a Canadian rescue tug. She is still in that position. She is awaiting her Newfoundland crew to sail her into her home port. I say to you, and to my fellow countrymen, get on board, sail her over.

[Short recess]

Mr. Keough Before I begin to address this Convention I wish to pay a word of tribute to the Hon. Mr. Job upon the action that he has taken this evening. All my own life I have been considered somewhat of an extremist, and in consequence I can appreciate the gesture of a man who is prepared practically to risk his life in order to have his say upon a matter so vital to his country, that is now before us. And whilst I'm afraid that I cannot quite concur with the Hon. Mr. Job in all that he has said, I nevertheless wish to avail myself of this opportunity to pay my tribute to a gallant gentleman, and one who I have always credited with being perfectly sincere according to his own lights, as I hope, when this Convention is all over and done with, I will be credited with being sincere according to mine.

"I know what you are thinking about," said Tweedledum, "but it isn't so, no how." "Contrary wise," continued Tweedledee, "if it was so it might be, and if it were so, it would be. But as it isn't, it ain't. That's logic." I wonder if by any chance Lewis Carroll was vouchsafed a vision of this great debate that is now drawing to its close, and drew therefrom his inspiration for those