

negotiate with the Canadian government in regard to possible federal union. There are thousands of Newfoundlanders tonight who have a strong desire for confederation and those people

have the right to request and receive all the facts pertaining to the terms of confederation.

*[The Convention adjourned]*

#### November 5, 1946

*[The Secretary read a report and correspondence from the Newfoundland Industrial Development Board<sup>1</sup>]*

**Mr. Butt** I give notice that I will on tomorrow

move that the report of the Industrial Development Board be referred to a committee for consideration.

#### Motion to send a Delegation to Ottawa<sup>2</sup>

**Mr. Butt** In view of the fact that this report may have an effect upon the people's thinking, I move that the debate be adjourned until tomorrow, and that we proceed with the other orders of the day.

**Mr. Chairman** Anybody second that motion?

**Mr. Kennedy** I second the motion.

**Mr. Chairman** Moved by Mr. Butt and seconded by Mr. Kennedy that the debate on the motion to send a delegation to Ottawa be adjourned until tomorrow to allow the members time to study the report and the enclosure of Mr. Pratt's address.

*[After some debate, the motion to adjourn debate was defeated]*

**Mr. Higgins** Mr. Chairman, since adjourning last evening I gave some thought to the matter under discussion today with the idea of trying to reconcile the different points of view.... I sum it up in this way, in eight points:

1. We are all agreed that we want the terms of confederation.
2. The difference between us is when is the time to make the inquiry.
3. Mr. Smallwood's motion is to start the machinery for the approach to Canada immediately.
4. Mr. Penney's amendment is to defer the approach until we have finished the reports.
5. Mr. Bradley's amendment is the same as Mr. Smallwood's motion, but the delegation is not to leave before the first of January.
6. If Mr. Bradley's amendment is passed and the delegates named, they can begin work immediately and work through the Christmas vacation.

7. The delegates appointed would be honourable men and would, I am confident, not be prepared to consult with the Canadian authorities until they are armed with the necessary data.

8. So that there would be no doubt in the minds of the members of the Convention, I suggest that if the amendment suggested by Mr. Bradley was carried, that before the delegates left for Canada they individually assure the Convention that they were so armed.

With that safeguard I cannot imagine any doubt in the minds of the delegates as to the approach being in safe hands.... With that safeguard, I can see no objection to having the amendment moved by Mr. Bradley passed immediately.

**Mr. Crummey** I rise for the purpose of reporting my position as to the matter before the Chair. I have listened attentively to all the speeches. Some of the discussion did not appeal to me. I do not intend to make a speech, I think time enough has been wasted. I will be as concise as I possibly can. The motion is that a delegation will be appointed from this National Convention. The amendment is that the sending of a delegation be deferred, and the reasons offered I consider sound. The amendment to the amendment is a simple matter of trying to befog the issue. The sending of a delegation from this Convention I cannot agree with, because I take the position that the matter of confederation, or federation must be negotiated by governments and we are not a government.... I want to state emphatically that I

<sup>1</sup>This Board was created in January 1942 to promote the innovation and expansion of diversified industries in Newfoundland. For further information see Peter Neary, *Newfoundland in the Atlantic World, 1929-1949* (Kingston and Montreal, 1988), p. 168.

<sup>2</sup>Above, pp. 93, 104, 120, 128.