

should at all be considered at the present time as the facts relative to our own country's welfare should first be sought. I just rose to make it plain that I am against the motion because I feel there is something subtle in it, and I will vote for the amendment.

Mr. Fowler Mr. Chairman, I contend that the amendment to the amendment was a political move to further confuse the issue, split the vote and thus assure a majority in favour of the original motion. I therefore reaffirm my former intention to support the amendment, and I would exhort all members to stick to their original decision to support the amendment proposed by Mr. Penney, and not to be swayed by the confusing amendment more confusingly presented by the learned member for Bonavista East.... I am pleased to see that Mr. Bradley confirms my opinion as expressed on Thursday last, when he says it would be ridiculous to conceive of a delegation proceeding to Canada without first being informed of our own financial and economic position, a statement which should only further strengthen the argument in favour of Mr. Penney's amendment, which in short just means waiting until such time as this Convention may chose to send a delegation. I contend that this resolution should not have been brought in at this time, firstly because it has sown the seed of distrust and misunderstanding among the members of this Convention at a time when they should be working in harmony towards the completion of the first and most vital task, the reports of the various committees, and secondly because in the ears and eyes of the public it will eclipse the facts that should be given careful study at this time. I feel, that if there are people in this country interested in confederation, and if we believe in democracy, we must at the proper time give them the opportunity to express their desires, and I think that had Mr. Smallwood awaited a more opportune time and introduced his resolution in a different spirit there could be little reasonable opposition. I must confess that I was not invited to the alleged confederate conferences, nor did Mr. Smallwood as yet make any overture to me. Probably I was considered too insignificant, or more likely he was aware of my attitude towards the whole scheme. I feel sure there is still some honour left, even at this Convention. I suggest Mr. Chairman, that we define once and for all our

position, and then with confidence pursue our tasks to a successful conclusion, with equal rights for all and privileges for none.

Mr. Newell Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to make any lengthy remarks. As a matter of fact I have spoken only once, but I wish to say that if one were not so closely involved in this question, and if one were rather sitting in the gallery a great deal of the logic displayed would cause some amusement. I must say that I do not understand the confusion regarding the amendment....

Mr. Fogwill Mr. Chairman, I beg to move an amendment that before we proceed further it is essential for us to know exactly what the terms of reference of this Convention are.

Mr. Chairman There are four questions now before the Chair. We have the original motion, the amendment, the amendment to the amendment and now we have Mr. Fogwill's amendment, the terms of which I would like for him to put in writing. It cannot be a substantive motion. I might say in passing, without having the advantage of seeing your motion in writing, that there is a striking similarity in your motion to Mr. Penney's amendment.

Mr. Fogwill I did not have an opportunity of having it prepared in writing.

Mr. Chairman Is it an amendment to the original motion or an amendment to one of the amendments to the original motion? The question is inexplicably confused.

Mr. Fogwill I move this resolution as an amendment to the original motion. It is unfortunate that the question before the Chair should be introduced at this time. The motion is that it is essential, before we proceed further, to know exactly what the terms of reference of this Convention are.

Mr. Chairman The terms of reference have been considered and ruled upon. Perhaps now, insofar as the competency of the Convention is concerned to recommend that among other forms of government, confederation with Canada be placed upon the ballot, our expert adviser might shorten this discussion and hasten the voting upon these rather complicated questions if he would advise us and get rid of the matter.

Professor Wheare I am willing to give an opinion on that without any reservations at all; but many questions raised, I think, would be very doubtful ones to pronounce upon. If I understand