

million to the United States instead of \$75,950,000 which her bond called for, and this therefore amounted to default on the part of Great Britain herself. Commenting on the Newfoundland situation Mr. Plumptre says, "It appears on the evidence of the Report (meaning the Amulree Report) that Newfoundland had an incontrovertible case for honourable default — a case which was even stronger in its economic aspect than that of Great Britain a few months earlier." But Newfoundland was not allowed to take advantage of such a course because of the efforts of a combine consisting of the British government, the Canadian bankers and our own prime minister at that time. The report says that Newfoundland was led to ask for assistance from the United Kingdom. I contend the word "led" is not accurate. It should rather read we were mercilessly dragged and driven into the pit prepared for us. And above all in its significance, this report completely ignores the fact that the Alderdice government with whom they were dealing was acting in callous violation of its election pledges; that the whole thing was dripping with treachery and broken faith, and that the British government was fully aware that it was dealing with leaders who had been traitors to their country and who were agents acting without any legal authority. And it is from reports of this kind that they apparently expect us to base the discussions of this Convention.

Let me give you just one more example. The second paragraph of the report begins in this fashion: "The Commission has now been in office for twelve years. During the first half of that period the Island was in financial difficulties." In these few words the report condemns itself. We were supposed to surrender our political freedom on the clear understanding that our financial difficulties would be removed. That was both the word and the spirit of the negotiations between our government and the British government, and what happens. This report coolly admits that after faithfully performing our part of the agreement and sacrificing our national honour we were simply left to bow deeper under worse financial difficulties for six whole years. That instead of keeping their agreement, they led us into a valley of poverty and misery, which condemned 70,000 of our people to the whiplash of dole, and caused us to experience a period of national suffering

never equalled in the entire life of our country. These two instances are not simply isolated examples showing the misleading and unreliable nature of these reports, they are representative of their entire content. The examples I have given, show that in our deliberations we must not allow ourselves to be influenced by writings which are neither accurate, impartial nor comprehensive. Nor can we wisely accept the opinions of those whose first duty is to protect the interests and carry out the set policies of their masters in the Dominions Office. No man can serve two masters, and no reports made by the agents of the Dominions Office can be expected to give us the information or the guidance we require to enable us to solve the problems before us. It is my belief that the first duty of this assembly is the removal of that veil of secrecy which has for over 12 years enshrouded the political history of our country — to bring in to the light of day, the things which have so long been hidden in darkness. To give the people of the entire country a full, clear, honest picture of things as they really are.

Mr. Chairman, I shall have some further remarks to make in connection with the subject matter of this report when it is received by the Convention and upon the furnishing of the information which I have requested from the various departments of government. What I have said so far represents the spirit in which I formally move that this report be received.

Mr. Fudge I second that motion.

Mr. Newell Mr. Chairman, some of us junior members of this Convention have hitherto refrained from imparting our accumulated wisdom whilst matters apparently of great moment were being discussed. We have felt, at least I have, that such things as procedure and rules could best be dealt with by older and more experienced hands.

I should like to quote from our terms of reference. "It shall be the duty and function of the Convention to consider and discuss among themselves as elected representatives of the people of Newfoundland the changes that have taken place in the financial and economic situation of the island since 1934." That is a clear enough mandate, and indicates what should be the starting point of our deliberations.

For my part, I am much more concerned about how the people of this country are going to eat during the next 50 years than with how they are