

November 28, 1947

**Report of the Ottawa Delegation  
Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation  
Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Smallwood** Mr. Chairman, yesterday we finished reading clause 16, and I wonder if the Convention is ready to go with clause 17?

**Mr. Higgins** One question only. Would Mr. Smallwood describe the type of ship meant under paragraph 1, clause 16.

**Mr. Smallwood** Oh, that's the ferry on the Gulf. What Mr. Higgins probably has in mind is some discussion that took place in one of the last plenary sessions we had in Ottawa, where I think Mr. St. Laurent, the chairman of the plenary sessions, gave us verbally a part description of a boat that he said their steamship advisers figured might be the kind of boat that they would put on the Gulf. There was nothing final about it, nothing in writing; it was merely a description by word of mouth.... I have forgotten the specifications and dimensions that they spoke of tentatively, but I do remember that Mr. Higgins, who sat next to me whispered, "Well, Joe, it looks to me as if they are willing to give us anything we ask for." He was very pleased with the possibilities of the tourist trade in Newfoundland, and I was very pleased, at least at the thought that a fine ferry boat would be put on the Gulf ... the kind of boat that would bring tourists and their cars across the Gulf. I think that's what Mr. Higgins is referring to.

**Mr. Higgins** Yes, that is what I was referring to. I wonder, would it be possible if Mr. Smallwood's memory later on might help him in giving us a description?

**Mr. Smallwood** Mr. Bradley has apparently been interested for years past in ships and shipping, I am sure when he gets back he will be able to repeat these details and specifications because he was very interested in these from the technical standpoint. I don't know much about ships and shipping, and I was not in a position to judge. Mr. St. Laurent, I believe, read from a written memo that had been handed to him by the Canadian government shipping people, but if Mr. Higgins would wait until Monday, Mr. Bradley will be here.

**Mr. Chairman** Is that quite satisfactory?

**Mr. Higgins** Yes, sir.

**Mr. Hickman** Have they got the plans drawn up already?

**Mr. Smallwood** No, that would be sort of taking the bull by the horns. It was this: knowing the Gulf as they do, and the boat we have had on the Gulf, and with their general knowledge of steamship service and practice, their steamship people ... worked out something on paper, something in general of the type of ship that might be needed for that purpose.

**Mr. Ballam** Mr. Chairman, the CNR delegation, assuming that if and when we become a province they would have to take all these things into consideration, considered the matter of a ferry on the Gulf; and because of that the Canadian government went into just what kind of an outfit they would put there, and that was where they got the idea of making an estimate of what it would cost. The kind of boats they anticipate would cost about \$2.5 million, and would take 30 cars, and give a daily service back and forth. That's a lot better than we get now. But that is what they anticipated, and that is exactly what they told us in this session.

**Mr. Higgins** I am waiting for Mr. Bradley's memory!

**Mr. Ballam** I am not worrying about Mr. Bradley. You were there, and you heard it, and you said it was fine.

**Mr. Cashin** I wonder if Mr. Ballam could tell us if, at the time they were discussing the ship across the Gulf, they took up the matter of a subsidy that they might or should have paid us in the last 20 years across the Gulf?

**Mr. Ballam** If we become a province we would not need a subsidy.

**Mr. Cashin** No, we will get a lot of things for nothing then.

**Mr. Smallwood** The other day when Mr. Ballam was absent for a day, I was trying to remember which of the delegation it was that had the conversation with Commander Edwards, who was telling us how he had been in Newfoundland and knew our railway system well, and this member of the committee said to him in a friendly way, "What would happen if the CNR took over