

would cover it all. That is if we were not in confederation, if the Newfoundland government had to provide all the ordinary services that Newfoundland needed. That figure is a bit more than Mr. Wild, the Commissioner for Finance, estimated when he appeared before us in a private session. I think he estimated something like \$23 million, but it is a bit less than the figure estimated by Mr. James, the present Commissioner. I think Mr. James has it around \$26 million, but what the Economic Report has done is to take the \$23 million estimated by Mr. Wild and add a couple of million to it.

I am going to accept that \$25 million, at least for the purpose of argument. If we can accept that as the amount required under Commission of Government or responsible government to carry on this country, to cover all ordinary expenditures ... and you want to get an idea of what it is going to cost the government of the Province of Newfoundland, if we went into confederation, the thing to do is this: take that \$25 million, and take off from it those items of expense which, if we became a province, the provincial government would not have to pay. That is reasonable.... Under confederation the provincial government has far fewer things to do.

The provincial government would not have a railway to pay any losses on. The provincial government would not have any lighthouses, or public wharves, or breakwaters or dredging, or what we call marine works.... The provincial government of Newfoundland would not have to pay any pensions to ex-servicemen of any war.... The provincial government would not have to pay any deficit on the Postal Telegraph Department, and I remind you that between 1920 and 1940, that department of ours dropped on an average of half a million dollars a year loss. The provincial government of Newfoundland would not have to pay the expenses of the Fishery Department — fishery inspectors, bait depots, and collection and distribution of bait, and generally what we call fishery matters, because these would be done by the federal government, and also the provincial government would not have to pay any interest on that part of our public debt which is known as the 3% guaranteed stock — \$60 million odd — because the Government of Canada would take over that public debt, and therefore the provincial government would not

have to pay the interest and sinking fund, if there was any sinking fund on it. Now all these things, and a number of other things — I won't delay the house to describe them all, or even to name them all, because I am trying to save time. I want to be out of this by the end of January, right out of it altogether, so I won't take the time to list over these item by item.

Mr. Chairman If you don't mind Mr. Smallwood, could I take that as an undertaking?

Mr. Smallwood Of what, sir?

Mr. Chairman That it will be closed by the end of January?

Mr. Smallwood I am not a member of any party or organisation which would have power to guarantee any such thing, but I am most eager, having just come back from a trip to many thousands of people in the last two weeks, to get this Convention closed up by the end of January, but I can't guarantee that. I have been here for two years almost, and I would not guarantee anything.

Mr. Hollett May I rise to a point of order? Can't we get on with that business?

Mr. Chairman Mr. Smallwood, I think you had better confine yourself to the matter in hand.

Mr. Smallwood I was going straight on and was interrupted, or I interrupted myself.

Mr. Chairman Well, you are meandering all over the place. Never mind anything beyond the point in hand. Let us get down to brass tacks.

Mr. Smallwood I was doing that when I was interrupted.

Mr. Chairman You are interrupted because you don't get down to the root of the matter.

Mr. Higgins Go back to the brass tacks!

Mr. Smallwood I want the people to know the truth, so that they can decide...

Mr. Chairman I want to make clear again the fact that the people are going to decide nothing. The people will decide next spring what is going to be done, but if you don't mind while I am in the Chair all members will be subject to the rules governing debate.

Mr. Smallwood I for one never forget it.

Mr. Chairman And any ruling I make will not be calculated to placate the public or any section of the public.

Mr. Smallwood To get back to this estimate of ordinary expenditure brought in by the Economic Committee. I could take off from that item by