

pointed out, if this amendment to the amendment does not go through we might be here until May next. Personally I would like to see it finished next week, if possible, because I realise that the people who came here for this Convention are of the ordinary common people like myself. It is not going to affect the businessman how long we are here, and I do not say that with prejudice, but any unnecessary delays will naturally come on the Bell Island miner or the labourer of St. John's or the men in the woods, and for that reason I am prepared to work night and day to get through with this Convention. I have often worked harder. I know what it is to go in the mines and work night and day. But I would like to be clear on this matter now before the Chair before I vote. I am going to vote for this amendment, even if it means we are to be here until next May or June, because I want to let those who sent me here know that I am doing all in my power to protect their interests and the interests of the people all over Newfoundland as well. Furthermore I am voting for the amendment because I realise that by being too hasty we might be doing harm instead of good. I am opposed to confederation as I am a firm believer in the land of my birth, and will not be satisfied until Newfoundland possesses a responsible form of government, so as to make it a better place to live in with the least expenditure....

**Mr. Northcott** Mr. Chairman, I want to vote for the amendment because I think it will give the Convention time to put its own House in order, and give the various committees time to assemble the facts and present their reports and debate on them....

**Mr. Butt** Mr. Chairman, I feel that we have allowed this debate to come down to too narrow a vision, as some people are thinking of the bit of heat it engendered. I think that, looking at the problems of Newfoundland, the Convention should find out what is in our own country before going to another for terms. I agree that some time or other in the future we could find what the terms of confederation would be, but there is no need of rushing this issue. I do not want it thought that we are keeping valuable information from the people, but with such an important issue as confederation with Canada or anywhere else there should be nothing left undone to ascertain the true facts, and we ought to have good terms ourselves to offer. I for one will support the amendment.

**Mr. Fogwill** Mr. Chairman, I would like to have an explanation on the terms of reference contained in the act of 1946 regarding what forms of government should be placed before the people. I think we should know whether confederation is included in the forms of government to be placed upon the ballot paper if a national referendum is recommended by this Convention. Frankly I do not know what the terms of reference are or if this Convention is going to confine itself to any specific number of forms of government to be balloted for.

**Mr. Fudge** I have listened very carefully to those who have spoken and I am wondering what prompted me to come here, because the whole matter is so confusing. I had an idea that our duty was to take stock after doing business for a period of 13 years, and that after doing that we should be able to find out as near exactly as possible what our assets are. But, unfortunately, this matter of confederation slipped in and the whole thing has been interrupted so far as stock-taking is concerned. It appears to me, as a judge of all trades, that the pro-confederates have a boat for sale and that boat is called the *Newfoundland*, and before there is a bid on it at all, it is pronounced 100 years behind the times, leaky and rotten. How can you expect to make a sale and a good deal with it? In supporting this amendment of Mr. Penney I wish to go on record that I am prepared to defend this country to the best of my ability and I say let us find out all the facts of our own country before taking it to another to auction off.

**Mr. Ballam** Mr. Chairman, I have not spoken in this debate, except for a few minutes this afternoon, but I still say we have had too many speeches and too much time wasted. If we had less pussy-footing the debate on this resolution would have been over long ago. I think the whole issue has been made confusing, and I think that terms from Canada should be obtained, otherwise the Convention will be remiss in its duty. The only point I can see in prolonging the debate is to decide when a delegation should be sent to Ottawa. That is why I support the resolution. However, though I am not a politician, perhaps it would be a good thing if this matter would be shelved until January next and, with this in mind, I could vote for Mr. Bradley's amendment, as the machinery must be put in motion and the facts