

do not consider the question of confederation is a matter for the National Convention to decide, I mean to negotiate, even getting the terms. There is nothing left for me to do but to support the amendment as it states definitely that the matter may come up for consideration later on.

Mr. McCormack Mr. Newell has said that most delegates are one up on him. I might say that most delegates are three up on me. I have not spoken to either the motion or the amendment, or to the amendment to the amendment....

Previous to the introduction of the original motion the various committees were working harmoniously on the primary task. The motion by Mr. Smallwood was not startling in itself, as most delegates seemed to take it for granted that we would want to know eventually the terms Canada was willing to offer under confederation. What was startling was the fact that it was brought in at that stage in our proceedings. Its introduction disrupted the work of the committees, and what is more, the tirade delivered by the mover tended to resolve the debate into an issue on confederation.

The amendment offered by Mr. Penney seemed a logical thing at the time. Nothing has changed since, despite well-prepared speeches and the masterly way in which many of them have been presented. I must confess that I am not impressed with the points made, and have not been influenced by them to alter my original opinion.

The fact that several delegates reiterated, too convincingly, that they were not confederates, makes one feel we would do well to exercise the suspicions for which we are becoming proverbial, and look for underlying motives. Mr. Bradley, in a very logical address, presented with the ability of a master, has expressed concern over the time which might elapse in the setting up of machinery and the consequent delay in obtaining information. I cannot be persuaded, even by Mr. Bradley, that the setting in motion of machinery would entail such delay as would warrant our rushing to Canada without necessary facts about our own country. He talks of January 1st, which gives us a mere six weeks. What does a little time or the expenditure of a few thousand dollars amount to, when we consider the momentous task confronting this Convention?

If the outcome of the national referendum

happened to be responsible government or Commission government we could look forward to a change at the wishes of the electorate, but if we commit ourselves as a tenth province the decision will be irrevocable. We have no guarantee that a referendum will be held before 1950, and should we obtain terms now, who is prophet enough to foretell if these terms would be official then? I propose to vote for the original amendment so we can put first things first and get on with the work of our committees and arrive at a solution of our primary task, discovering not whether we are self-supporting, but rather to what degree we are self-supporting, and for how long a period we can reasonably hope to remain so, keeping in mind the unprecedented and unpredictable condition of world affairs. We would then be in a position to seek terms of federal union and should do so without any feeling of inferiority, realising that both parties would expect to benefit thereby. It is my pleasure to support Mr. Penney's amendment.

Mr. Kennedy I have listened until this stage of the National Convention with intent and interest, but with the introduction of this latest amendment to the amendment, my patience has neared its end. Certain members of this assembly seem to have forgotten what they were put here to do. The general attitude of these individuals has been revolting, and the presentation of their one-track-ed narrow-minded outlook has revealed all too plainly what they consider to be the main object at stake. We are here to seek information and on the basis of such information to recommend the form of government we consider most beneficial to our beloved country and not, as some members have obviously concluded, to prattle on seeking salve for our own wounded prestige.

If one and all of our present nine working committees could this week, or any other week for that matter, present the vital statistics to prove this country independent, what an utter waste of money, and what a world-wide laughing stock this Convention would become by prolonging such ridiculous tittle-tattle as this futile motion and equally futile amendment to the amendment have produced. Let us in the name of heaven stamp out this egotistical self-elevation, and as a team get down to the work which this motion and the amendment to the amendment are seeking to sabotage by their untimely and scheming interruption. Not only I but our constituents are be-