

completely fulfilled and its powers completely out of existence. It is still there, and although it may have nothing to do and no power to function in any way it is still a Convention, if you like, with nothing to do.

It might be just as well if you are discussing the matter with the Attorney General, you might take up with him the necessity of an act of Parliament to put this Convention out of existence. In any event, even assuming that its work is done, it is still a Convention by statute. What is there on the statute book to say that it does not exist any more? There is nothing to say that having made its recommendations the Convention shall cease to exist. It is quite possible that the Governor in Commission may want it to do some more work. If so, it is still there, and the Governor can empower it to do that work. I think that should be taken up with the Attorney General when you see him.

**Mr. Chairman** Thank you, Mr. Bradley.

**Mr. Cashin** Following that matter I have received some replies to questions, some of which I have not asked, but I still have not

received any reply regarding the Newfoundland Savings Bank. At least I am pretty sure it is not here, and I would like to draw your attention to the matter again, Mr. Chairman, so that the Secretary can be requested to ring up the Secretary of the government and ask him if we are going to get it or not.... I would like to have something on the Newfoundland Savings Bank.

**Mr. Smallwood** Have they actually started now to answer questions which Major Cashin did not ask at all?

**Mr. Cashin** I asked these questions long ago, I think some of them were asked by yourself. I find one or two that I asked, but the one with regard to the Savings Bank has not been answered.

**Mr. Chairman** I think that the last one was asked a week or ten days ago.

**Mr. Cashin** They said it would be a few days or so.

**Mr. Chairman** Yes, this is the second or third time you have directed my attention to this.

**Mr. Cashin** Yes, it is the third time I have brought it up.

**Motion to recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the wishes of the People of Newfoundland be ascertained as to whether it is their desire that Responsible Government be restored or Commission of Government be continued**

**Mr. Higgins** Mr. Chairman, before going into the motion proper,<sup>1</sup> and so that I won't use up time when I may need it, I want to draw the attention of members to the two sheets I have taken the liberty of having placed on their desks. I am sure they are known to most members, but some may not be as familiar with it, and I thought it would not be any harm, in our discussions, to have them actually prepared. You will notice the first page, "United States Concessions to Newfoundland", and the word "Secret" marked on it. On that page are concessions given to Newfoundland for which she had to pay certain concessions to United States. On the other two pages are the concessions that were given without any consideration on our part whatsoever....

Mr. Chairman, in moving the motion which appears under my name on the order paper this afternoon, I would remind you once again of the terms of reference under which this Convention is constituted, and in particular section 3, which

makes it necessary for this Convention to recommend forms of government. My own inclination in the matter, would be to recommend one form of government only, namely responsible government, but to conform to our terms of reference under the Convention Act it is necessary to recommend *forms* of government. Therefore this resolution means, if it passes, that two forms of government will be recommended to His Majesty's Government to be put before the people at a national referendum.

Let us review briefly the steps that led to the formation of this assembly of which we are members. In the years of the world depression, beginning around 1930, Newfoundland, in company with the rest of the world, got in deep water. This condition was by no means peculiar to Newfoundland, as you all know. The government of the day, under the late Hon. F.C. Alderdice, became worried about the condition of the country, and approached the United Kingdom in the mat-

<sup>1</sup>See debate for January 16, 1948, p. 1229.