

October 10, 1947

Report of the Ottawa Delegation¹

Mr. Chairman It is usual for the Clerk to read the report. In this particular instance the report is rather voluminous, and at a meeting of the Steering Committee this morning it was suggested that perhaps the better way would be to read the introduction only, and the matter could then be dealt with and a decision made as to how this report would be handled. It was further suggested, and I don't imagine that either of our secretaries will object, that in view of the fact that Mr. Smallwood is more or less familiar with the document, he might read it. If there are no objections I will ask Mr. Smallwood to proceed.

Mr. Jackman I object. I think we have unfinished business here.

Mr. Chairman Sit down, please, you are out of order.

[*Mr. Smallwood read the introduction*]

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, that is the introduction to the report that this delegation has brought back from Ottawa, and which is now on the desk of each member of the Convention. I intend to say nothing more at this time, except that I will move that the report lie on the table and that the matter of debating it, or even reading it, be deferred until a more appropriate time. The thought of the Steering Committee this morning was that the best time to read this whole report would be after the terms themselves have arrived from the Government of Canada; then the terms and this report can be taken together, because one belongs to the other.

Before I sit down, I want to raise a matter of privilege. There is one thing on which all Newfoundlanders agree: if there is one class of persons in this country who deserve the respect and the love and admiration of the people of Newfoundland, it is the clergy of all denominations, and I regret to say that in this city there is published a newspaper known as the *Daily News* which, while we were absent doing work for Newfoundland, was contemptible enough to publish prominently a vile and a vicious attack upon a minister of the gospel, and I refer to the

Rev. Lester L. Burry, who was not even present in Newfoundland to defend his good name. That vile sheet, owned and edited by one of the most hypocritical, holier-than-thou...

Mr. Hollett I rise to a point of order.

Mr. Smallwood I am going to get this off my chest.

Mr. Hollett I understand that we assembled here to receive and later discuss the report that the delegation to Ottawa has brought back. I submit the last speaker is out of order by speaking to something not on the order paper. And I, for one, am not going to stay in this Convention room and allow any man to get up in defense of any man at this time.

Mr. Smallwood You can go out if you like; you are better off out of it anyway.

Mr. Chairman Order! If I cannot have order, I shall leave the Chair. While I am in the Chair, I will tell you what you will do. When I go out, you can do as you please; but while I am here, I will rule. In the first place, Mr. Smallwood's motion was to receive and lay on the table the report of the Ottawa delegation. He made that motion. Before he sat down, he took occasion to refer to an attack which had been made by the *Daily News* upon a member of this Convention. Mr. Smallwood has every right to raise it as a matter of privilege; but he has not the right to raise it immediately upon moving a resolution. Mr. Smallwood, you cannot proceed with that peroration of yours.

Mr. Smallwood I bow to your ruling, but I want to serve notice on the *Daily News* that the lid is coming off — and on Mr. Hollett, too — this is one time the truth is going to be told about that rag, and I will do it at the proper time in accordance with the rules. I move that the report lie on the table of the House.

Mr. Crosbie I second that motion.

Mr. Miller Before the question is put, there is one point I would like to be clear on — footnote on page 4:² "This summary of proceedings was considered and agreed to at the final meeting of

¹During this debate, the members of the Convention are referring to the so-called Black Books, which are not reproduced here. These volumes contained information on the Canadian federal system, and minutes of meetings in Ottawa. The proposed terms of union were communicated on November 6, 1947. Volume II:510.

²In the Black Books.