

ber, and without a doubt he received a copy of it also. What was it? It was merely a small extract from that very large report provided to the Government of Canada by its own experts. It was the Government of Canada which compiled these two Black Books, and it was the Government of Canada which decided what should go in these books and what should not. It was their choice. If the Government of Canada chose, in inserting into this Black Book, part of the report they had received from their own officials, it was their right to do so. What we have is the same as you have here, with the very significant exception that one or two clauses have been dropped from the Black Book that were in the original report. Why is it significant? The original report, the copies of which were handed to the three of us, contained the clause which Mr. Higgins has read out this afternoon. You don't find that clause in the Black Book. The Black Book is what the Government of Canada compiled, what their own officials compiled as their report to them. What we go by is this Black Book.

Mr. Chairman Oh no...

Mr. Smallwood What is official is what is in the Black Book, which was given to the delegation as a whole.

Mr. Chairman Just a moment, Mr. Smallwood, please. That may be regarded as an official source, but I am not going to hold that that is the only source. Therefore if members of that delegation were in possession of supplementary information ... it is the property of this Convention and we are entitled to have it.

Mr. Smallwood I am not questioning that for one moment. I am merely drawing this distinction, that as it appears in the Black Book it is officially inserted by the Government of Canada; the other thing is not official because it did not come from the Government of Canada. It came from officials of the Government of Canada, and had not been passed on by the Government of Canada.

Mr. Chairman Did I understand you to take the position that when the provinces were called together to consider the implementation of the Royal Commission which brought in that report, that any statement made by the premier at that conference is not to be regarded as an official statement?

Mr. Smallwood I was not referring to that, sir.

Mr. Chairman Well, what were you referring to?

Mr. Smallwood I was referring to the paragraph that Mr. Higgins read concerning the railway of Newfoundland, a paragraph which he read from a document, which paragraph does not appear in the Black Book. What I say is this: that so far as concerns our Newfoundland Railway service, which includes the steamships, we have here a document, put in this Black Book by the Government of Canada. Mr. Higgins quotes a paragraph from another document, which was written by officials of the Government of Canada. What we must take as being official is what the Government of Canada itself put in this Black Book, not another document which has not been put in the Black Book at all.

Mr. Chairman I am afraid we have to part company on that point. I said that the fact that we have to accept that as official, as you put it, by no means implies that we are not to accept something else as official. Suppose I accept your premises that that is official, then I say that that is official so far as it goes, but that is not to be taken to mean that that is to be the sole source of information available to the members of this house if and when it is discussed. There are other sources of information.

Mr. Smallwood No, sir. I agree with you completely, but what I say is this, that so far as our Newfoundland Railway service is concerned we have here in the Black Book a document inserted by the Government of Canada. That we take as being the official statement. We have also, Mr. Ballam, Mr. Higgins and I, another document...

Mr. Chairman That's the point!

Mr. Smallwood We have another document which has not been given to us by the Government of Canada, because it does not form part of the Black Book.

Mr. Chairman I don't care about that.

Mr. Smallwood No sir, so long as that is made clear. Understand, I was not objecting to the production of that other document, from which Mr. Higgins is quoting, I was merely pointing to the fact that the one we go by is the official one inserted here by the Government of Canada.

Mr. Chairman I am not going to make a ruling on that.

Mr. Smallwood No, you don't have to make a ruling....