

For example, Mr. Smallwood asks the Commissioner for Education to table certain reports. Having given notice the question will be passed to the Secretary. Then as in the old days, it will be required that the Speaker find whether the question is relevant. In the meantime I see no objection to any member saying that on tomorrow he will pass to the secretariat a question, and the question in turn will be passed to the department concerned. I do not see how the members can get information in any other way.

**Mr. Smallwood** You have not made it clear as to whether questions asked by an individual member go to the government automatically, or whether they go from the whole House and must be adopted by the House.

**Mr. Chairman** I thought I made it clear that by passing them to the Secretary they will then be passed to the department concerned.

*[Mr. Smallwood then read a series of questions concerning Gander airport]*

**Mr. Hollett** It appears to me that if we are going about this inquiry into the state of affairs of our country, and if we are to be delayed by each member's asking any question as might occur to him overnight, we are not tackling the matter in the best systematic manner. We have a factual statement of affairs in the Amulree Report<sup>1</sup> up to 1934. Our business is to find out how things stand now; what has happened between 1934 and the present time, and whether or not we are financially and economically sound or self-supporting. If we are to tackle it in the proper manner, we ought to take it subjectively: take finance, deal with it and be done with it; take fisheries, deal with each matter under its own heading. I referred to the Amulree Report. I think that report is pretty near correct. We ought to deal with one department of Newfoundland affairs at one time and be done with it. What makes me speak of this is that I saw a communication in the press where one of the delegates had received a letter from the Governor's private secretary relative to the departure of the Commissioner of Finance.<sup>2</sup> It was thought that the commissioner ought not to be leaving at this particular juncture. We had the assurance given us that the Commissioner for Finance would be here for two weeks. Therefore, we ought to tackle the problem of finance first.

**Mr. Hillier** The object is to inquire into the future forms of government.

**Mr. Fogwill** After listening to the two previous speakers, I am of the opinion that there has not been enough provision made, and it would now appear that the best thing would be to appoint a special committee to draft a plan of action....

**Mr. Chairman** I had in mind, subject to the wishes of the Convention, a steering committee, that would have the setting out of the rotation of business and plan of campaign. If my suggestion is agreeable, the committee will meet with all possible dispatch....

**Mr. Bradley** It is not, I take it, intended to limit the right to ask a question.

**Mr. Chairman** In the old days we had the order paper, and the order paper was the daily agenda. We will have to have the same method to enable us to know what is going to be discussed and by whom.

**Mr. Brown** As perhaps the oldest member of this House, I might say that I do not see how we can progress without some line of procedure. I move that this house will adjourn until such time as the Committee on Rules and Procedure has drafted a plan and it is adopted, so that the House can be guided by that line of procedure in the right way.

**Mr. Cashin** I am inclined to agree with Mr. Hollett. One of the commissioners is leaving Newfoundland; he holds a most important position in the government in regard to finance. Whilst I agree with Mr. Brown that without certain rules we cannot proceed, I feel we should take advantage of the commissioner's presence and direct financial questions to him. I would suggest that these questions be put on the order paper and that Mr. Wild come here and be further able to answer questions that are not quite clear. You will remember, Mr. Chairman, what happened in the old days. A member placed questions on the paper directed to the finance department and the next day the department tabled the information; and if the inquisitor wanted any further information, the minister was there and he got up and said "I want to know something else." The only way to get information is to have the Commissioner of Finance here and whoever wants to ask a question, the Commissioner is here to answer it.

<sup>1</sup>Newfoundland Royal Commission 1933, Report, Cmd. 4480, 1933.

<sup>2</sup>K. Macdonald to P. Cashin in *Evening Telegram*, 10 September 1946, p. 3.