

during the past 14 years, we cannot afford to risk the handling of such a serious and delicate matter as confederation to a group of irresponsible trustees who have proved beyond a shadow of doubt they are incapable of protecting the best...

Mr. Chairman Please, Mr. Vardy, I want you to understand there is no attempt on my part to discriminate against you in any shape or form. Prognostications as to our economic potentialities or future forms of political institutions are, I rule, entirely irrelevant. I must ask members now to confine themselves to a direct discussion of the Financial Report.

Mr. Vardy I have never been brought to order by the Chair. I shall never stoop to personal abuse of any member here. If the Chairman finds in the heat of debate he must call me to order, if he is right I shall bow to his better judgement, if he is wrong, I shall defend myself in a manner appropriate to the occasion. Sir, your task is a difficult one. I do not envy you. When our feelings run deep, so will our language. I feel, Mr. Chairman, after most carefully examining the balance sheet we can assume full responsibility for our future destiny unafraid. With hard work, determination and endurance, the pride of Newfoundland will again be restored to her proper place in the new world order.

Mr. Higgins I should like to move that we decide now to terminate the debate and that we adopt the report without further discussion. I do not know if I can move it at this time.

Mr. Chairman I will accept the motion. I will ask the House if it is ready to receive the motion, but if the House decides to debate the motion, then I obviously cannot accept it. If you have a seconder I will ask the House if they are prepared to accept the motion.

Mr. Job I will second that. My feeling is that this report will get lots of attention when we come to the discussion of the economic side. It is merely a short postponement of further discussion; and as a matter of fact people have been speaking to the economic section. I do not think we have been discussing the Financial Report. I think we should wait until we have the economic section.

Mr. Chairman The motion before the Chair is calculated to determine further debate on the Financial Report. Before putting the motion, I shall ask if the House is ready to receive the motion. If the House decides, or feels that further

debate is desirable, of course the motion will be voted down. In the event of the motion's being accepted, it will mean, of course, that further debate has been terminated. Moved by Mr. Higgins and seconded by Mr. Job that the report of the Finance Committee be received and adopted, is that it, Mr. Higgins?

Mr. Higgins Yes, without further debate.

Mr. Smallwood I rise to a point of order. Can you adopt a report in committee of the whole?

Mr. Chairman You can receive it.

Mr. Higgins I meant to renew the motion when you took the Chair.

Mr. Chairman Moved and seconded that the Report of the Finance Committee be received. Is it the wish of the house to receive the motion?

Mr. Ashbourne I just wish to bring up a matter which may not particularly have any bearing on the Financial Report but which I believe has a considerable bearing on the financial position of some of our fishermen which seems to be rather in doubt. I refer to the matter of the conversion of the sterling received for shipments of fish, into Newfoundland or Canadian currency....

Mr. Job Point of order. I do not think the speaker is speaking to the point we are discussing. I do not want to stop Mr. Ashbourne, but I thought it would be better for him to bring up the subject when the adjournment is moved.

Mr. Chairman The motion is that the Report of the Finance Committee be received.

[After considerable procedural debate, the Chairman ruled the motion out of order. The committee then rose and reported progress]

[Mr. Hollett asked when the Economic Report would be submitted]

Mr. Cashin We discussed a certain programme, but we did not get to any final decision as to what programme we are going to carry out. I think we can make our final decision tomorrow as to what form, or forms, we will adopt to bring our Economic Report to the House.

Mr. Chairman Thank you. Does that answer your question?

Mr. Hollett Not quite. I have been giving some thought to this report. We have to decide whether or not this country is self-supporting, which I think is a very silly thing to have to do, because I don't think any individual, country, or town or anything else is self-supporting; but we have to decide this, and consequently we have to have