

for our people. Confederation I will support if it means strength, stability and security for Newfoundland. I will support confederation if it gives us democratic government. I will support confederation if it rids us of Commission government. I will support confederation if it gives us responsible government under conditions that will give responsible government a real chance to succeed. Confederation I will support if it makes us a province enjoying privileges and rights no lower than any other province.

These, then, are the conditions of my support of confederation: that it must raise our people's standard of living, that it must give Newfoundlanders a better life, that it must give our country stability and security and that it must give us full, democratic responsible government under circumstances that will ensure its success.

Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, I have given a statement of my faith, but I do not expect members to support this motion for the reasons that impel me to do so. Members no doubt have a variety of reasons of their own, and their support of this resolution does not at all necessarily imply agreement with mine. There are many cases to be made for submitting and supporting this resolution quite apart from those I have given here today.

In the name of the people of Bonavista Centre and of thousands of other Newfoundlanders throughout this island I move this resolution. I believe that this move will lead to a brighter and happier life for our Newfoundland people. If you adopt this resolution, and Canada offers us generous terms, as I believe she will, and Newfoundland decides to shake off her ancient isolation, I believe with all my heart and mind that the people will bless the day this resolution was moved. With God's grace let us move forward for a brighter and happier Newfoundland.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of seconding this motion. I want to make myself quite clear at the onset with respect to that. I do intend to second it. My purpose in doing so I will explain as I go on. I entirely disagree with Mr. Smallwood's statements, entirely. I don't intend to adopt them in any one whit. But the motion that he makes is for the acquiring, as far as the Convention is concerned, of a fact which is actually as important as any fact that we have had presented here to us today. It is important for

one reason, that is that we may disabuse our minds for once and all of this business of confederation. I do believe that we have to get the terms of confederation. I do believe the country expects it, and certainly we can hear from the fire of Mr. Smallwood's speech that he is going to be one person who makes us expect confederation as a form of government to be considered. Whether good or bad, whether it meets with our ideas of the economy of the country or not, it is still a fact, and as a fact that we must ascertain, I second the motion. It is just as real a fact as that we ascertain the report of the Forestry Committee today. To me, Mr. Chairman, it is in this class. We have heard of St. George's coal fields, most of us, all our lives. A lot of us are beginning to doubt very much the value of St. Georges' coal fields, but we are determined to find out, if we can, if they have value. I doubt very frankly if the terms that Mr. Smallwood envisages from Canada are going to be very much better than we got when we were not in nearly as good a position, as when the approach was made before. But it is a fact that we have to ascertain these terms, and in this spirit I second this motion. I want to be understood as not agreeing with Mr. Smallwood, and having no wish for confederation.

Mr. Harrington Mr. Chairman, I felt solemn when I rose in this House to deliver my maiden speech on Thursday, September 12, but my feelings on that occasion were not half so intensely patriotic and righteous as they are today in speaking to the motion introduced by Mr. Smallwood.

I feel it will be a great surprise to Mr. Smallwood, who is quite convinced I am going to support his motion, to realise that on the contrary, I am strongly opposed to it, on factual, but, more important, on moral grounds. In the first place, I think his resolution is premature. This Convention is a body of Newfoundlanders, elected to first consider the financial and economic changes that have taken place in this country since 1934, and then on the basis of our findings to recommend forms of government to be placed before the people in a national referendum. The Convention was called together and formally opened by His Excellency the Governor. After a week or so of preliminary discussion, the "shake down cruise" so to speak, the Convention as a whole agreed that the very best method of going about the first part of their task would be to subdivide into