

know, that the Convention was adjourned for a purpose, and that every member of the Convention was doing his job in their interest, and seeking the information that they sent us here to get....

**Mr. Smallwood** In line with Mr. Butt, my point is not that the public would condemn us for not meeting daily, they would just lose interest. Now on a given night 200,000 people, let us assume, are listening in. On that one occasion, in one sentence or two, it is said in a broadcast that the Convention has adjourned to go into committee work. I will agree that if that were said each night for a week on the air that fact would then become public property in Newfoundland. I am sure that my friend Mr. Harrington will agree on that. You have got to say the same thing in a number of ways at least five times over that many days before it becomes public property. I am afraid that the reaction would be, "What's happened to the Convention? I have not heard a word from them for some days." The fact that they divided into nine committees, and that they are working like nailers to get certain information would not be appreciated. My point was not as to whether the constituents would *blame* us or not, my fear is that they will not even know that we have adjourned or why, and they will think we are trying to stretch it out as long as possible. Already lots of people have said, "Oh they meet at 3 o'clock and adjourn at 5 o'clock - \$15 gone to wing!" They don't know how we are working - that does not make good copy for our friends in the press box, and the bare fact that there was a committee meeting is not copy at all....

**Mr. Brown** Mr. Chairman, what is the radio and the press for? Surely, the press and the radio can inform the general public what is happening. Well, if the general public don't want us to get the information that we are seeking today and going to seek, how can we reach any decision in this Convention? Surely there must be a time for the obtaining of this information, and we can't get that information and have this house sit every day. Some of us have been sitting on some committee every day, except Sunday, up to the present time, and I don't see how this House can sit daily and obtain the information we want to give the general public. I think this is only prolonging the debate and losing time discussing the matter. As far as what my friend Mr. Smallwood says about us getting \$15 a day, there will

be some of us who go out of St. John's and our \$15 a day won't cover our expenses, Mr. Chairman. I hope we can get through by Christmas, and I know many others in this Convention who are of the same opinion. Let us get down to business in the right way and get through this Convention just as quickly as we possibly can, in the meantime obtaining all possible information and giving it to the public.

**Mr. Smallwood** Just one last word. I hope the newspaper men and radio men present have received enough copy so that they can drive it home to the public. That's my idea, to give them enough copy to make them say more than one line that we are going to adjourn. If they report this little scrap that we have had, it may serve the purpose for which it was intended.

**Mr. Hickman** I agree entirely with Mr. Butt, and if the people have had nothing for 12 years I think another week or two won't hurt. I think the quicker we get down to the actual work the better. I would like to make a motion that the motion be put.

**Mr. Smallwood** I second that motion.

**Mr. Chairman** Moved that section 5 as read be agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

*[Section 6 read]*

**Mr. Chairman** There is a slight correction there, gentlemen. The officials of a department will not come here and take part in the committee meetings, but it is meant that an official from the department will be there and his first duty will be to give this task his first attention. That section will read: "It is proposed that each committee shall have the assistance of an official of the appropriate government department to assist it in its task of obtaining the necessary information from that department. The Commission of Government have assured the Chairman of their fullest co-operation in this respect."

*[Sections 6 and 7 approved]*

**Mr. Chairman** It is proposed that each member of the Convention sit on two committees, and the schedule for the time of sitting has been so arranged that they will not overlap. If it is so approved, gentlemen, I shall appoint the members of the Convention to the committees accordingly.

*[Moved and carried that this suggestion be approved. The committee of the whole rose, and the Convention adopted the Report of the Steering Committee]*