

noon Mr. Higgins had about the same complaint as I had, and I thought one dose of that stuff for one afternoon would be sufficient; but with your permission I would like to refer to it.

....I was personally attacked by the delegate from Bonavista Centre in language that was as dirty as could come from the slums of St. John's, rather than from a leader of this Convention. The words used to describe my person, as I understood them at the time, and all delegates present could hear, were that I was acting as a clown, a brainless thing with some money, and an old fossil, who thought that his money gave him some privileges. This dirty stuff was snapped across the floors of this assembly just before the committee rose for adjournment, written into the records of this Convention and broadcast to the country, before I had a chance to say a word. I presume, sir, it was the desire and intent of Mr. J.R. Smallwood to blast a man's character because he dared to disagree with him. It is not my proposal to reply to what I believe to be scandalous charges, because I am not looking for recommendations of character from Mr. Smallwood or anyone. I much prefer to leave that to the people of the District of Carbonear, and the town of Carbonear in particular, where I have lived all my life. They sent me here to represent them, and as far as I am concerned, unsolicited. According to Mr. Smallwood, however, they sent here a brainless thing, unfit to represent anything; yet it is a fact that the majority of the people of Carbonear did this with their eyes open, and I submit that the people of the community and district of Carbonear are as intelligent as any other community in the island.

**Mr. Chairman** I think that's beyond question, Mr. Penney.

**Mr. Penney** The language used in this vicious attack was as much applicable to them as to their representative. It was also an attack on the dignity and honour of this assembly, as well as every delegate present who regards decency and fair play as a gentleman's code of honour. It is very distasteful and unpleasant to me to be put in a position at the beginning of the New Year to have to refer to this at all. I would not do this, only it is the first time that I have been able to attend sessions since the attack was made, and such a dirty scroll should not be left inscribed on the records of this Convention. May I ask you then,

Mr. Chairman, that the words complained of be deleted from the records, since, as I understand it, the rules and regulations of this assembly may afford protection....?

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. Penney, I recall generally the incident to which you refer, but have you any recollection as to the date on which the language was used?

**Mr. Penney** I believe it was Friday afternoon, November 28, for the next day I was obliged to go home.

**Mr. Smallwood** Mr. Chairman, I have no comment whatever to make on the remarks of Mr. Penney, beyond saying this: that what I said to Mr. Penney that day was I believe at that time, and I believe now, to be fully merited because Mr. Penney, possibly he was unconscious of the fact and unaware of it, but Mr. Penney was most grossly and inexcusably rude to me on that occasion, and what he got was tit for tat. Any time that Mr. Penney presumes to be insulting to me, whether he realises it or not, he is going to get just as hard as he sends. Now I want to add one word. What I said was to him and not to the people of Carbonear. I know the people of Carbonear, and have been connected with them for 20-odd years, and for them I have the greatest of respect and admiration....

**Mr. Penney** Mr. Chairman, the statements I made at that time I can prove, and I am willing to prove before you in a private session, or in your room, but I decline to say it over the microphone.

**Mr. Chairman** I have tried to emphasise time and time again the maxim that "words are dangerous things"...it is very distressing that I should be put in the position of trying to vindicate the honesty and integrity, the intelligence and dignity of members of this chamber, to which they must surely have been entitled, otherwise they would never have been sent here by the respective constituencies. In view of the fact, Mr. Penney, that this thing occurred some considerable time ago, I wonder if you would have any objection to my deferring a ruling until tomorrow, because I would like to get the transcript and the exact remarks before me, rather than to deal with the matter in the abstract now.... Would you have any objection to this?

**Mr. Penney** None whatever, Mr. Chairman. I much prefer that you would take time to think it over. It is on the records, sir.