

anything to be included in a motion which might preclude the possibility of placing other forms of government on the ballot, because while I am perfectly in favour of placing the matter of responsible government on the ballot, I believe — in fact, I know — there are people who want the opportunity of voting on another form. I do not want to take up the time of this House — there may be others who want to speak, and I know Mr. Higgins will wind up the debate.

I would, however, like to speak about a few matters. I could discuss the quality of responsible government. I could relate the fate of some of the people who gave their time and energy and thought to the government of the country. And here I would like to say it is the noblest thing a man can do, to offer his services to his country and to work in the country's interest and in the interest of the people. It may be a thankless job, people may have to face many unpleasant circumstances, and such has been the history of people who have taken upon themselves these responsibilities. Nevertheless, they have accepted these duties and no doubt they have the recompense and reward that comes from duties well performed. "Responsible government would be restored *at the request....*" I have wondered many times just how the British government would ascertain the voice of the people of Newfoundland and just how it was proposed that the people of Newfoundland should make their request known to the British government. Evidently, sir, the setting up of this National Convention, and its recommendations, will give the people an opportunity to vote on the forms of government submitted to them.

In building wisely there is one thing which is most essential and indispensable, and that is that a start be made on a solid foundation. To my mind, responsible government as it existed before 1934 did not make itself indispensable. I do not intend to discuss the merits or demerits of the present or past governments. It is not my intention at this late hour to praise, criticise or defend governments.... "By their fruits, ye shall know them."

Mr. Chairman If any member wishes to speak on the motion and has not done so, he had better do so now, or forever hold his peace. Mr. Higgins is about to deliver his coup de grace.

Mr. Higgins I would like to say at the outset, in

case there may be a contrary opinion ... with respect to the motion, that the form I had originally on the order paper was for the purpose of conforming as closely as possible to the wording of the legislation under which we relinquished our former government in 1933. That was the only purpose behind it. I want to make that quite clear beyond any doubt, beyond any suggestion such as was made here this afternoon, when it was stated that the verbiage of the motion showed the cloven hoof of partisanship. As far as I am concerned, anybody who wants to believe that the motion was rigged in such a way as to prevent members of this Convention from recommending other forms, any person who wishes to believe that can go to the residence usually associated with the gentleman of the cloven hoof. I say that in deference to myself, because as you are aware, at our private session on Friday last, it was placed beyond doubt that both these motions would be debated — the one under my name on the order paper, and the one under Mr. Smallwood's name. Time was allotted and agreed to, and there can be no doubt in anybody's mind who was present at the meeting that that is so.

Mr. Chairman Which is why I did not worry about the form of the motion.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, in my opinion, whatever forms of government this Convention recommends to the United Kingdom to be placed on the ballot paper at the forthcoming referendum, the United Kingdom government will place only two forms on the ballot and these are the two forms envisaged in the motion you have before you tonight. I say that because of my respect for British jurisprudence and British justice. And British justice demands that the United Kingdom government carry out its pledge that appears throughout the legislation, and throughout the report on which that legislation was based back in 1933. Because of that, I say that no matter what forms of government this Convention recommends, that with that well-known justice of Britain, and the British people, the United Kingdom government will be compelled to put before the people of this country only two forms of government and these are the two forms you will vote on tonight.

You have had a very scholarly presentation this afternoon from Mr. Hollett on the various pieces of legislation leading up to the formation