

**Report of the Ottawa Delegation
Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation
Committee of the Whole**

Mr. Smallwood As I said, I propose reading first a few passages from the speech delivered by the Prime Minister of Canada at the opening of the sessions at Ottawa. That was on the morning of June 25. The speech was broadcast throughout Canada on all the networks, and the reply of Mr. Bradley was broadcast that night.

[Mr. Smallwood then read extracts from the speeches]¹

Now sir, I ask you to take the Grey Book. I will read you the letter from the Prime Minister to His Excellency the Governor....²

Now, sir, I would ask you to turn to the next page of the Grey Book³, this communication from the Prime Minister of Canada, the title of it is "Proposed Arrangements for The Entry of Newfoundland Into Confederation". Clause 1:

1. Newfoundland will have, as from the date of union, the status of a province of Canada with all the rights, powers, privileges and responsibilities of a province.

No, sir, I do not know the meaning of that clause, it so happens. It is so utterly clear to me, I do not need to explain it.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Smallwood said he would read it and sit down.

Mr. Smallwood I said I would read it, make a brief explanation and then sit down.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Smallwood said he would read it and sit down.

Mr. Smallwood I guarantee you that what I said was, "I will read it, make a brief explanation and sit down." I have not made the brief explanation. The explanation is this: from the time we would become part of the Canadian union, we would have the status of a province with all the rights, powers and privileges and responsibilities of a province. That means this: as I see it, Canada is a union of countries called provinces — there are nine of them. If we became a province, there would be ten provinces. Canada is a union of provinces or of countries. Each of these provinces has its own legislature which it elects itself. That

House of Assembly or legislature governs the province in all matters that are laid down for it to govern it. The other matters are handled, of course, by the government of the whole union, that is the federal government. Turn to Vol. 1 of the Black Books, page 81.⁴ You will find there a description of provincial governments. Section 29:

29. Provincial governments in Canada have various origins. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward island came into Confederation with their pre-existing constitutions practically unaltered by the union. This was also the case with British Columbia, although representative institutions were not fully developed there at the time of union and were later regulated by provincial statute. The Governments of Ontario and Quebec were provided for in the British North America Act of 1867. The constitutions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, which were created out of federal territories, were laid down in the Manitoba Act of 1870 and in the Alberta and Saskatchewan Act of 1905.

Mr. Higgins I understood this Black Book was not going to be read.

Mr. Chairman Except by way of reference or explanation.

Mr. Higgins We have the Black Book in front of us.

Mr. Smallwood The people have not got it in front of them.

Mr. Higgins We have "to consider and discuss amongst ourselves". The matter I object to — I agree with Mr. Smallwood's brief explanation — but a brief explanation does not include reading the Black Book.

Mr. Smallwood I do not propose reading the Black Book.

Mr. Chairman I would like to clear this up. I gathered that it was not your intention to refer to the Black Books except as may be necessary to

¹Paul Bridle (ed.), *Documents on Relations Between Canada and Newfoundland*, Volume 2 (Ottawa, 1984), p. 523.

²Volume II:510.

³Volume II:511.

⁴The Black Books are not reproduced here.