

do. I was surprisingly touched and pleased with the addresses of Mr. Newell of White Bay District, and Mr. Keough of St. George's on Wednesday last, because they were young men representing extern districts in Newfoundland, and they may not have been schooled in parliamentary amenities in the same way as our old time politicians whom we have already heard every so often. Yet it could be clearly seen that they were alive to their jobs and gave us some good stuff to think over. May they be followed by other outport members who may be classified as unknown in this public way so far, like your humble servant.

When Mr. Brown told us in his address that he came to this Convention with an open mind his declaration touched me closely, for I can say also that it is my privilege to be sailing in the same boat in that respect. While I am not in love with the dictatorial make-up of Commission of Government, I am more concerned over the number and kind of meals the people of Newfoundland will be able to afford in the years ahead, than I am in particular forms of government at this time, so to that end, and for that purpose I am very willing to serve with a feeling that there are many rivers to cross in between.

**Mr. Higgins** Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to address this assembly at the present time, and I don't intend to do so today for more than five or six minutes. I feel it is much more fitting to have members outside St. John's do the talking at the present time, because we in St. John's who are so much closer to the seat of government have a lot to learn from the opinions of outside members. My real reason for rising in this debate was because I did not feel justified in keeping silence any longer, having listened to the remarks of the proposer of this motion on Wednesday last. I do not feel justified for two reasons, one that silence may be considered to give consent to the views of Major Cashin, and secondly because I feel that his remarks, whilst they may be good politics, do not lead to contentment in the minds of the delegates. The remarks I object to are these. In referring to the undertaking by the British government to Newfoundland — "When the country is self-supporting we would have responsible government given back upon the express wish of the people" — he said, speaking of this people, "How can any thinking Newfoundlander

honestly and conscientiously give his moral support and endorsement to a thing which is not alone illegal but even ethically improper?" Again, in referring to a statement made by Prime Minister Attlee that the Commission have in hand or are planning to meet our present needs during the next two or three years, Mr. Cashin read into this statement the fact that the British government intended to enforce Commission rule for two or three years. He said again, "Our status, despite what may be said to the contrary, is simply that of a mock parliament, a discussion group, a study club." How anybody holding opinions such as these can sit as a member of this Convention is beyond my understanding, and certainly Major Cashin's doing so is, using his own words, very improper. The most scathing part, however, is the excuse he gave when he said he was not "a subservient delegate to a Commission-inspired assembly, but rather a free and independent representative of the people whose interests I represent." The suggestion contained in these remarks means that either some or all of us are subservient delegates to what Major Cashin describes as "a Commission-inspired assembly". I resent that suggestion, and I am sure I resent it equally with all of you here today. There is no man here who is not a free and independent representative of the people, and I defy Major Cashin or any other person to say otherwise. I am not interested in the background of this Convention; as far as I am concerned we have been elected by the people of this country to ascertain if we have or can arrange economic security and financial stability. Without these no government can be successful. Having ascertained these items we must look to the form of government best suited to the country. Our fellow countrymen are looking to us with great expectations, in fact the outside world is also extremely interested in this Convention, as we note by the newspaper coverage we are receiving. I ask you, can the remarks of Major Cashin impress our country or outsiders with our ability to solve our problems? Let us in all future sessions refrain from all such remarks as we heard here on Wednesday last. We must remember that the cost of this Convention is by no means inconsiderable. The sum of \$150,000 was set aside to cover this assembly. The costs amount to upwards of \$800 for each day. Unless we are giving service in line with our