

fact that they are unable to get the things that are being produced in the United States, because to the original cost is added the many costs of handling, and then a very substantial duty.... There are many items from which we might completely wipe out the duty in order that our working people may be able to purchase things at a cheaper price. This may involve the much bigger issue of creating a customs union between this country and the United States. Should such a proposition be entertained, the Canadian government would also be interested, and perhaps the discussions which would take place might finally bring about a customs union between the United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

To do that, of course, it would be necessary for us to give consideration to some other method of taxation, but the one great benefit of such a union would be that the standard of living of our working people would be substantially raised, in that they would be enabled to get many of the things that today are entirely beyond their reach because of the high prices. It is almost impossible to envisage at this time all the results that may be achieved by sending a delegation to Washington, but I am quite sure that we have good grounds for believing that if we are prepared to take a reasonable attitude that we can extend the market for our fishery products and at the same time benefit all our people by reducing the tariff on our imports from that country.

**Mr. Reddy** Mr. Chairman, it has been a source of wonder to me why it is that a motion of this kind did not come before the House long ago. One of the terms of reference of this Convention is to inquire into and explore the economic possibilities that lie before our country. In the early days of this Convention, when our authority to send a delegation to the USA to inquire into trade and political relationships with that country was brought up, it was referred to the late Chairman and the constitutional authority, Professor Wheare, and we were advised that it was within the province of this Convention to send a delegation.

**Mr. Chairman** That is not correct. You were never advised by the late Chairman or Professor Wheare that you could send a trade delegation to the United States of America.

**Mr. Reddy** I thought that was what he said, sir.

**Mr. Chairman** I am quite sure you are wrong.

What Professor Wheare and the late Justice Fox did say, was that you could send a delegation to the United States to discuss the question of federal union, with the assent of the British government and the United States government.

**Mr. Reddy** Thank you, sir. I hope this will be with the consent of both governments. If there be in this House all the sincerity for the people's interest that some of the delegates wish us to believe, and not forgetting that lone fisherman on the bill of Cape St. George, and if the pussy-footing with respect to the people's economic well-being is to cease, then I think that a motion of this kind should have been one of the first resolutions dealt with and not one of the last.

It seems to me that there has been an utter lack of frankness in dealing with this all-important subject. Delegates adopt a hush-hush and "don't wake the baby" attitude when this subject has appeared likely to come up. The Chairman is aware, and every other delegate is aware, that in the two instances where a vote was taken with respect to forms of government and other relations that this country should adopt, the preponderance of public opinion was in favour of establishing relations with the USA over all other forms of government. I refer to a poll that was conducted about a year ago in the *Western Star* published at Corner Brook, and a more recent poll conducted by the *Sunday Herald* at St. John's.

Don't you think that it is about time that we should cease trimming, and discuss our economic and political relations with the country that year after year buys a larger percentage of our exports than any other country? Don't you think that our relations with that country, which sends us from our immigrant brothers and sisters several million dollars each year, ... which is at present employing at the bases here 3-4,000 Newfoundlanders, a country with which half the world is trying to establish closer trade relations, don't you think that if we are sincere to those who sent us here, and if we are not to be known as a conglomeration of pussy-footers and hypocrites, don't you think it is about time that something be done towards exploring every avenue of economic and political approach in this connection?

My good friend from Bonavista Centre gets his delegation for Canada. Our trade relations with Canada may be summed up briefly as fol-