

Justice, Natural Resources, Public Works, Public Health and Welfare, the Liquor department, Home Affairs and the provincial treasury. All these departments, according to Mr. Smallwood, would involve an annual expenditure of approximately (I am speaking in round figures) \$15.5 million. Let us see what these departments are disbursing now in comparison with Mr. Smallwood's estimates. Mr. Smallwood drew his figures from the Economic Report. He pointed out that our total expenditures were \$25 million, and he took off \$11 million, and made it \$14 million as a provincial expenditure.

First, the Department of Education vote for the year 1947-48 amounts to \$3,622,300. In the forecast by Mr. Smallwood, this amount has been reduced to \$3,107,000 or a decrease in annual expenditure of over \$500,000 annually...

**Mr. Smallwood** Nonsense. Why do you not be fair?

**Mr. Cashin** Listen to who is talking about being fair! Mr. Chairman, if we turn to the Economic Report which Mr. Smallwood took so much trouble trying to destroy, we forecast an annual expenditure for education of \$5.75 million and this did not include any capital expenditures. In the report of the Education Committee given here over 12 months ago — and, mind you, Mr. Smallwood was a member of that committee — the importance was stressed of an increased vote for education, and it is generally acknowledged throughout the country today that we must make every effort to advance the education of our children. Yet, right here in these estimates, under a provincial government, Mr. Smallwood tells us in so many words that we should decrease that vote; that we should not build more schools for our children and our teachers are not entitled to any additional remuneration. Mr. Smallwood may not have that programme actually in mind. He might have this one: in Canada, in practically every province, a school tax is imposed on the people. Mr. Smallwood may have in mind the raising of that additional \$750,000 annually for education through additional taxation. The people must be taxed additionally, if we are to keep up the present annual educational grant. This would mean that in the various towns and villages all over Newfoundland, unless the people are agreeable to further taxation, they cannot have their present educational facilities.

Now let us look at the Department of Public Health and Welfare. The estimates of expenditure for the present year under our present form of government amount to approximately \$6.25 million. In addition large amounts are being spent in the construction of hospitals which will continue to increase our expenses for upkeep. Mr. Smallwood lops a cool \$1 million off this amount and makes his estimate something over \$5.1 million. This Public Health and Welfare Department was one on which considerable controversy took place. I have a personal interest not alone in the country, but particularly in Ferryland; and in recent weeks, I am informed, a very serious accident took place in that settlement and there was no nurse and no doctor there. If we go back to 40 or 50 years ago, Trepassey had a doctor, Ferryland had a doctor, Bay Bulls had a doctor. Now we have no nurse, nothing. I say now, as a former representative of that district, that it has been done deliberately by the Commission of Government.

If we turn again to the Economic Report, we will find that in our proposed programme, which Mr. Smallwood ridiculed, we forecast an annual expenditure of \$6.25 million; whilst, in addition, we set aside from our anticipated surplus an additional \$1 million to be devoted to the purpose of old age pensions, unemployment insurance and additional social service.

If we turn to the Black Books again, we find that the reductions in expenditure made by Mr. Smallwood eliminate over \$800,000 in the form of assistance to indigents, allowances to widows and orphans and maintenance of hospitals. Just imagine, Mr. Chairman, our poor unfortunate widows and orphans will be deprived of the mite which they have been receiving under our own government; the maintenance of hospitals will be reduced, whilst we know it is increasing in cost. Again, Mr. Smallwood may have in the back of his head the idea of further taxation in the form of hospital tax as well as municipal tax for the poor. He certainly knows that in many provinces of Canada the people are taxed specifically for the maintenance of hospitals. In the city of Montreal, a 5% tax is collected on all meals served in hotels and restaurants for the purpose of maintaining hospitals. Also the citizens are specifically taxed to take care of the poor. Mr. Smallwood may not have the idea of decreasing