

differ with that. I don't claim to be any special angel, but I am not dishonest, and Mr. Smallwood can search the records of the court, or the statistics of debtors, or the Economic Report, and he won't find anything there showing dishonesty. I am convinced from what I have seen and what we did, that this country is self-supporting, no matter what people may argue or say to the contrary.

**Mr. Vardy** Mr. Chairman, it does not matter how we obtained the prosperity we have, but rather what are our chances of holding it. It matters not to a country whether an earthquake, war or even a revolution brings prosperity. What does matter in deciding on a plan for the future is whether the prosperity is real. Is it lasting? Have we a reasonable chance of continuing to be self-supporting? Surely we do not expect a drop of 25% in our revenue in the immediate future.

Frankly, I fail to see what purpose it serves to be debating these reports in committee of the whole. Most of us could have used up much more valuable time talking, bickering and arguing over something we ourselves, and the whole country, know has been prepared in such a manner as to do full justice to all the circumstances surrounding it. Each member should have spoken once only and then the vote taken. It has been very difficult for some of us to hold our seats when we see so much valuable time wasted. I am in full support of Mr. Job's suggestion to get on with the job, and I must reiterate that this whole business should not have lasted six months. In my opinion we are all justified in suggesting corrections or minor alterations, but when we appoint committees to do a job, we should not question the honesty of the reports, but rather the purpose they serve, and vote according to the dictates of our own consciences. In my opinion, anyone who votes against this report is betraying the land that gave them birth; regardless of whether we recommend that we carry on on our own or join hands with some other country, it is and will still remain our bounden duty to keep the torch of Newfoundland burning high, and never let us accept an inferiority complex at any time, but insist that we are, and will always be equal with our neighbours of the same race. We are all only too conscious of the fact that all is not well with the world, and we cannot expect to escape our full share of the aftermath of the war; but we are

prepared to adjust ourselves to new world conditions, just as other countries must; and this will not be altered by any particular form of government.

It is my definite opinion that the USA would renew negotiations concerning the base leases, or grant reciprocal trade tariffs, owing to the fact that the USA did not get 99 year leases from other countries who are seeking free entry for their products.

**Mr. Kennedy** Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to waste the time of this Convention with my opinion of members who consider their own blocking has any bearing whatsoever on the economic, or indeed any other standing, of our country. The general public, and indeed you yourself, must by this time be heartily sick of would-be statesmen and their egotism, so enough of this nonsense. I make no pretense of being an economist, but at the same time I claim common sense, and I trust that my claim will be substantiated.

The direct aim of any business involving the public is to bring to that public the things that it needs most. If stocks held are the stocks in demand, then that business, regardless of whether its neighbours sink or swim, is bound to thrive — and if it doesn't, no one is going to blame the finance minister's estimates. Apply this principle to countries at large and what have you? This island is producing commodities for which the whole world is clamouring from resources which, far from being worked out, are not even as yet tapped. It is indeed unfortunate that the sterling crisis affects our would-be market in Europe, but why in the name of heaven sit back and wail like a man with one theory, whose theory has been blown sky high? Every pound of fish, every cord of timber, every ton of ore sent to Europe must be shipped — using foreign fleets, note you! — at least 2,000 miles.

The United States needs our food in the form of fish. Transport and other difficulties regarding this commodity have in recent years been overcome, and I think I'm safe in saying larger strides are under plan, and soon the term "direct from fisherman to consumer" will become fact. With the appropriate trade agreements, we can derive from this need of the United States all the essentials which our now precious dollars are purchasing from a country unable to buy anything which