

colony and to make recommendations to H.M. Government in the United Kingdom as to possible forms of government to be placed before the people by way of a national referendum. We can't control that. We can't even by unanimous vote alter these terms. The statute is made and we have to abide by it, always bearing in mind the form and duty of this Convention. Secondly, I don't see how we can narrow the choice of the people of this country, particularly in view of the wording of the statute. People are entitled to as wide a choice as possible, and in any case this recommendation of the committee on rules and procedure does nothing more than fully protect the voice of the minority of this Convention, and takes care that the individual's opinion, together with the views of the Convention, be put forward. We cannot alter these terms.

**Mr. Jackman** Frankly, I don't like this word "can't".

**Mr. Chairman** Perhaps I should say "may not".

**Mr. Jackman** Here is another matter. Possibly we can't do it, but I would suggest that we should discuss the matter here with a view to an amendment of the terms. We could send it in at any rate, and at least it would give us a chance to say that we are not going to sit here and have our hands tied and do as we are told to do. We should have a definite stand on matters like this. As far as I can see, it is just boiled down to a question of forms of government. We don't have the final choice, but at least we should be able to try them out on the matter anyway. When we are told that we can't do this or that, why don't we try it?

**Mr. Chairman** Will you consider whether or not, if your motion is acceded to, it would have the effect of limiting the choice of the people of Newfoundland, and tying their hands, by giving them only two forms of choice instead of several? I don't think we should deal with that phase of the matter. We are acting under certain statutory provisions which are very clear.

**Mr. Hollett** Mr. Chairman, I was on that committee, and I have some doubts as to the wisdom of incorporating this into the rules of procedure. As you have just pointed out it would limit the choice. The Convention was elected by the Newfoundland people to consider and discuss the changes which have taken place in the economic and financial structure of this country, and then make recommendations based thereon as to the

form or forms of government which may be suitable to the status of this country. Why should we tie ourselves down with something extra whereby each person has to give his own personal reasons for voting this or that way?

**Mr. Chairman** There is no obligation on any member, the wisdom of the committee placing beyond all doubt that the views of the members of this Convention should be fully protected. The language used in session makes that very clear. "It is our duty to make recommendation to H.M. Government... etc." In other words this does nothing to limit the rights or circumscribe the rights of the members.

**Mr. Hollett** If we read that section 39, those are exactly the terms. It goes on further to say, "together with any preference which he may express as to one form of government or another." Each individual has to make up his mind as to what he himself thinks is the best form of government in this country. I fail to see how he can have two minds about it. He may be satisfied to have other forms of government, but there is nothing in the terms of reference to conclude that, and I must say that I don't like this particular thing, which seems to be added on, and I think we should vote against its adoption unless the last three lines are deleted.

**Mr. Chairman** Any further debate that the words to which Mr. Hollett has reference do nothing more than place beyond cavil or doubt what is meant by the preceding words of the section. If it errs it only errs on the side of making things clearer.

**Mr. Hickman** Is there a motion before the Chair, sir? Has it been seconded?

**Mr. Chairman** There is no need to second a motion in committee, sir, but Mr. Bradley has put the motion. Moved that this section as read be adopted. Carried unanimously. Proceed, Mr. Secretary.

**Mr. Bradley** This ought to be carefully considered. The committee is of the opinion that the Chairman, by reason of his qualifications and long experience in parliamentary matters, and his unquestioned impartiality, particularly also in view of the fact that he is continually and daily in close contact with all activities of the Convention, is the most suitable person to appoint these committees. In an assembly of this kind, perhaps on the spur of the moment and without the due