

Mr. Chairman I say whether it is Mr. Smallwood, or Mr. Higgins, or Mr. Ballam or anyone else, if they had in their possession information which came to them while they were serving in the discharge of duties assigned to them by this Convention, it is clear and unmistakable to me that it is their duty to produce these supplementary documents and make them available to members.

Mr. Ballam I was on that committee, and I agree with Mr. Smallwood that that quotation there was taken from the report that these gentlemen made to the Canadian government, and the Canadian government findings are included in this Black Book.

Mr. Chairman I agree with you as far as you go. I am not suggesting for one moment that any information gathered by any member of that delegation from any source other than the Canadian government is official and therefore has to be introduced. Let me make myself clear. I say that any information that the members of that delegation, or any committee of that delegation, received as such, should be and is, as far as I am concerned, a proper matter to be placed before the Convention.

Mr. Smallwood I put this to you, Mr. Chairman. Some members of the delegation received from the Government of Canada a certain secret and confidential book which had been prepared for the Government of Canada, by their own experts and officials, and we were given the courtesy...

Mr. Chairman Now just a moment, before you go any further. In what capacity did they receive it?

Mr. Smallwood Who, sir?

Mr. Chairman The members.

Mr. Smallwood Purely as a courtesy and kindness, so that we could read it and gather what information was in it, but on condition that it was strictly secret and confidential. We have it, I have a copy now, and I tell you that all the Conventions that are created will never get me to divulge it — not all the Conventions in the next hundred years.

Mr. Chairman I am not suggesting for one moment that you should break faith.

Mr. Higgins Is it improper, sir? I brought that up. I did not think it was improper at this particular point.

Mr. Chairman Insofar as it did not cover railway and steamships or ferry service it was ir-

relevant.

Mr. Higgins I was not talking about the Prince Edward Island affair, but this business about the Railway and with reference to two things that were not included in the Black Book.

Mr. Chairman Now just a moment. How did you come to receive it?

Mr. Higgins Sometime prior to July 31, I am not sure of the exact date now, there was a committee set up consisting of Mr. Ballam, Mr. Smallwood and myself, to meet with representatives of the Canadian government, who would be buttressed by their railroad.

Mr. Chairman You were appointed a committee by the chairman of the delegation?

Mr. Higgins The chairman of the delegation, Mr. Bradley, appointed Mr. Ballam, Mr. Smallwood and myself to be a committee from the Newfoundland delegation to meet with representatives of the Canadian government.

Mr. Chairman You were deputising for the delegation as a whole?

Mr. Higgins That's right. We met with that committee sir, and, to the best of my recollection we only met them once, but information that we asked from the government here was supplied. I believe Mr. Ballam will bear me out in that.

Mr. Ballam We met them twice. The second time was to do with the steamship part of it. We met the railway part only once. I think that's so.

Mr. Smallwood Twice.

Mr. Higgins All right, we met them twice. Now as a result of that meeting we did not discuss anything with them, and again I am going by memory, except give them what information they required. All that we had with us, and all that they wanted that we had to acquire from Newfoundland, we gave them that. As a result they made a report to, I presume, the committee that was meeting us from the Canadian government. I presume that because the only thing I have to go by now is our minute of our meeting, a memorandum of July 31, and at that meeting it is stated that the secretary...

Mr. Smallwood The secretary of the plenary session.

Mr. Higgins Yes, the secretary of the plenary session had reported that the sub-committee had reviewed the whole matter and the Canadian members had obtained a substantial amount of information from the Newfoundland members of