

controlled entirely away from this country — railway, telegraph, control of roads in an emergency, our government marine fleet, our broadcasting corporation. In short, we are giving up the control of all our essential communications, and all that might mean to the people of Newfoundland if (and God forbid) we should get into difficulties. We are giving up the control of our fisheries. We are giving up the right to decide on the question of conscription for ourselves, in spite of the fact that we have down through our history prided ourselves that we have always turned out on a voluntary basis enough people to do as

much, and probably more than our share in the defence of freedom. We are giving up this too, the right to fix our own rates of taxation, and on that I would like to have one word on sales tax alone. I am not going into the question of taxation fully. I am going to say one thing on what was not brought out particularly, the general sales tax; that is an indirect tax.

As the hour is late, I now move that the committee rise and report progress.

[The committee rose and reported progress, and the Convention adjourned]

January 13, 1948¹

Mr. Cashin I give notice that I will tomorrow ask His Excellency the Governor in Commission to ascertain from His Majesty's Government the following information: In the referendum that is supposed to be held in the spring of 1948, will such a referendum will be decided and a future form of government selected on the basis of (a) the form of government on the ballot which received 51% of the total votes cast; (b) the form of government which received the majority of votes cast; (c) the form of government which receives a greater number of votes than any other?

Mr. Chairman, I again draw to your attention the fact that the question regarding the Bank of Canada has not been answered. I drew it to your attention yesterday, and I have asked you to find out whether or not we're going to get an answer. If they are not going to answer, let them say so right here and now. That's number one. Secondly, I asked the question with regard to the Newfoundland Savings Bank. And I just want to say this, that if I don't get a satisfactory answer to both of these questions tomorrow, I'm going to take some other steps. These are questions, proper questions put on the order paper and if you ignore them — I don't say the Savings Bank question is being ignored, because it's only been there since yesterday, but the other one has been there since the end of November and has been deliberately ignored. I want an answer to that question, even if I have to go so far as to move the adjournment of this debate.

Mr. Chairman Your question relating to the Bank of Canada, when you drew my attention to

it yesterday, I requested the Secretary to get in touch with W. J. Carew, the Secretary to the Commission government, immediately. He did so, with what result I'm unfortunately unable to say at the moment....

Mr. CashinI don't want to make any trouble in this Convention, but if that question is not answered tomorrow, I'm going to take some other steps. I'll certainly take steps in connection with our own Savings Bank. I have all kinds of information regarding it. It's my job to find that kind of thing out. I'll have very good information with regard to the Bank of Canada. But I want the information officially. Unless they are prepared to come along with that, I can't see why they chuck terms at us; they're not prepared to tell us their financial position.

Mr. Chairman What was the question on the Savings Bank?

Mr. Cashin The one on the Savings Bank was — there's nothing in the Black Books about it, or the Grey Books or any other book — what will happen to the Newfoundland Savings Bank in the event of Newfoundland becoming the tenth province of Canada. I know, Mr. Chairman, that in Canada there's no government savings bank, none. To date the Newfoundland people have \$20 million approximately in that bank ... and the average rate of interest paid to depositors last year works out to practically 2.75%. Now if that Newfoundland Savings Bank is to be abolished, the only interest that people would get on their monies in the ordinary Canadian chartered banks today would be 1.5% and in some instances they won't get that. Now, what is 2.75% interest on

¹The following debate is taken from the recording of the proceedings.