

I would still support its recommendation and let the people decide. But because we do not know that, and because we have not been able to get satisfactory information on questions that have been asked, I cannot support it. I am convinced that it can be done by consultation between an elected government of Newfoundland and the Government of Canada. As Mr. Higgins pointed out, there are possibilities for good in these proposals and they are a good basis for negotiation.

Another thing that the people need more enlightenment on is how we are going to fare as a province. By that I mean, how is the provincial government going to raise sufficient revenue to take care of provincial matters such as public health and welfare, education and so on? We have had a so-called budget presented to us, a provincial budget that would apply to this country if and when we became a province; not a budget covering one or two years, but for a period of eight long years, during which time anything may happen, from a war to a world depression. Incidentally, the author of this budget prophesied only a few days ago that we were going to have a depression and have it very soon. To my mind, it is a budget based on anything but sound, solid facts. In fact, it is based in some part, if not for the most part, on supposition. For instance on how our \$28 million surplus will be handled, \$16 million of which is out of our reach and will remain so for some years to come. The supposition is that some means may be found to get that \$16 million back in dollars, whereas now it is in sterling. Are we going to base our recommendations on suppositions such as that? Without knowing for sure whether it can be done or not?

Again, this budget says that we shall need \$15 million to cover ordinary expenditure as a province. Others in this Convention contend that it will take around \$18 million, and these contentions have been based, to my mind, on sound reasoning. Who is correct? More than that, how are these monies to be raised, and in the raising of it, how is it going to affect the ordinary Newfoundlander, the fisherman, the logger and the miner? These questions and many others have not been answered to the satisfaction of thousands of our people. Again, Mr. Chairman, how are our fishermen going to be affected by confederation? Are they going to be affected adversely or other-

wise? What is going to happen to our very efficient Fisheries Board, our system of inspection which has done a tremendous amount of good, our system of marketing? And also, how will our markets be affected? Every fisherman in this country wants to know that. Do they know it? They most certainly do not, and until they do, I cannot see how we can justify ourselves in recommending confederation as a form of government. Some of these questions have been answered, after a fashion, by Mr. Smallwood; but I am not prepared — neither are thousands of people in this country prepared — to accept these answers at the last word. Our people deserve the best, and the best is none too good for them. Confederation may be the best, but do we know that it is the best? I am quite sure that the majority of them do not.

I am a young Newfoundlander, Mr. Chairman, and will in all probability spend the rest of my days here. I do not want to be a party to recommending something to the people of this country which they might regret for the rest of their days. In my opinion, government means a great deal to a people. It has been pointed out here that as long as people have three square meals a day, a decent suit and a tight roof, they do not worry who runs the government. Personally, I cannot subscribe to that. What about our educational system? Our social services? And many other things that are equally important as food, clothing and shelter. Would I, as a Newfoundlander, be satisfied, as long as I had enough to eat, enough to wear and good shelter, to see Adolph Hitler as the head of our affairs? I hardly think so. Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I do not want to deprive the people of anything that may affect them for good. But in view of all the circumstances, as I see them, I cannot in all sincerity support this motion of Mr. Smallwood's.

Our days in this Convention are numbered. We have learned a lot since we came here. I hope that what we have learned will stand us in good stead in the future and will be of some help to our people. Now, Mr. Chairman, like others before me, I wish to express a feeling of gratitude to you for the way in which you have helped us since you occupied the Chair. You have kept us in order very impartially and I am sure we shall be forever grateful to you for the way in which you have conducted the affairs of this Convention.