

should meet it, then we have other methods of getting that information.

Mr. MacDonald If the old House of Assembly found it necessary to have special laws so that they could call evidence, then there must have been some reason for that.

Mr. Chairman The Convention has no legislative power it is true, but perhaps we might cross that bridge when we come to it.

Mr. Bradley With your permission, I would suggest that this power of a select committee was in connection with private bills on which they wanted evidence or private rights being interfered with.

Mr. Hollett I was not insinuating that any department would refuse to disclose facts; I was thinking more of the people outside the departments to whom we may have to go for necessary information relative to, say, the fisheries. It would be a terrible insult to our people if this body sent a request to John Jones to give us some information and he said, "I will not attend." I take it we could request the Commission to consider a slight amendment giving the Convention power to subpoena witnesses if we so desire. I would rather have the necessary power to ask a person to come here with the feeling we would not be turned down.

Mr. Smallwood I do not want to prolong this discussion, but this happens to be a popularly elected body in Newfoundland, the first elected body since 1932; His Excellency has conspicuously graced it and appealed to the public for support of it; also he has graciously come and opened it and there exists all over the country tremendous approval and sympathy with the Convention, and the last thing on earth the Commission would dare to do is refuse information that we must have. There is no industrial concern, no commercial society which would not be happy to come here or write us in response to any request we make.... They dare not refuse it. With all due respect, it is anticipating a most unlikely thing to happen and if it does we will know how to deal with it. There is a matter I would like to mention in regard to the attendance of visitors. Would this be a matter for the committee — could it be arranged through the issuance of tickets or through delegates, so that anyone who wishes to attend a particular session may do so? A member may have three or four constituents

who might wish to attend and they should not have to stand outside and take a chance on getting in.

Mr. Chairman I think that can be arranged; but the general question is how the proceedings are to be conducted. There may be an occasion when you want to have a private session; that is a matter for yourselves. I think the committee will deal with the various matters.

Mr. Jackman As a member of this Convention I am not satisfied with the authority we have. In regard to summoning, say, government witnesses, I do not think they would refuse, but we may have to go to England yet. We may have to go to Canada. If we are a fact-finding board, and suppose we want to bring back Sir John Hope Simpson, or Sir Wilfrid Woods, we have no authority whatever to summon them.

Mr. Chairman Usually a writ of subpoena does not run outside the country. You have the right to summon people only within your jurisdiction.

Mr. Brown Some time ago I made a motion.

Mr. Crosbie I second that motion.

Mr. Chairman Mr. Brown made a motion that the Convention adjourn and that a committee appointed draft rules and report back to the House and that motion, was seconded by Mr. Crosbie.

Mr. Job It is indefinite. I wonder if we could adjourn until, say, Monday; the committee might make an interim report.

Mr. Brown I submit that there is no committee going to hang up longer than necessary the work of the Convention. I have no reason or desire to delay the Convention or the work, but the committee cannot decide it in 24 hours. It will take time to discuss, deliberate and decide on what line it will take.

Mr. Smallwood Have we not adopted the rules of the House of Assembly? We have rules.

Mr. Job I do not think they could possibly get through all the business of the committee by Monday, but I thought they would get enough done to enable the House to continue meeting. There is a lot of work for the committee to do. It would give us time to make a report on the progress.

Mr. Brown If you will pardon me, I take it for granted that my honourable friend means that this committee will continue in office during the life of the convention, because after all there will be necessity for new rules or lines of procedure to be made every week as long as this Convention remains open.