

an opportunity today to make any remarks about the report, and in case there is, sir, I was going to resume my seat and if no one else did speak to this report, I propose then to move the adjournment of the debate, and let's try to clean it up on Monday, if it's humanly possible. But there are important points yet to be made about this report before the Economic Report comes before us.

**Mr. Hollett** Would you make clear, Mr. Smallwood, the point that you hope to make tomorrow, which should take 20 minutes; could he make it clearer, indicate to us what that point is?

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. Smallwood...

**Mr. Smallwood** Well, I wouldn't mind indicating the general nature of it. What I proposed doing was this: to take the period from 1920 to 1934 and deal only with the question of deficits and surpluses. But I wanted to make it clear, and if I'm not interrupted by Major Cashin on Monday, I would undertake to complete it in 15 or 20 minutes.

**Mr. Chairman** I would like to remind members that we're in committee and of course I'll bend over backwards, as I must, to relax the rules of debate. But I have to direct the attention of members to ... the purpose for which they were created.... The language of the act is unmistakably clear.... The statute lays upon members the obligation to inquire into the changes that have taken place in the financial and economic situation of the island since 1934 — since 1934.... There is a definitely described period. And that is why, Mr. Smallwood, in reply to Mr. Hollett, in view of the fact that you proposed the dealing with the period ... 20-24? 34?

**Mr. Smallwood** I apologise sir, if I said that, what I meant was, from 1920 to date, to now.

**Mr. Chairman** Anything that you might have to say on the period from 1935 to 1947, has to be

relevant and is clearly within the scope and ambit of the act. Any opinion expressed on the period anterior to 1935 is irrelevant save and except if it is calculated to enlighten us on any matters arising from this period of 1935 up to 1947 which would otherwise remain ambiguous and in doubt. We can't sit in this chamber and discuss what happened in 1810 or 1762. There must be some limit beyond which we can go because if there is going to be undefined limits we're going to be here until judgement morning.

**Mr. Smallwood** Would it be your ruling that what we are permitted to do is discuss such periods before 1934 as it may be necessary to throw light on the period since 1934, and only so far as it will do that?

**Mr. Chairman** After serious consideration, not an opinion which is being expressed by the exigencies of the moment, it is my view that members should not concern themselves with the period of our financial and economic history prior to 1934. Now I'm going to give this section of the act the greatest possible latitude, save insofar as any discussion prior to that time is calculated to enlighten us on matters which have arisen since that time.

**Mr. Hickman** I entirely concur with your ruling on that point.

**Mr. Chairman** Thank you Mr. Hickman, I stand relieved.

**Mr. Cashin** Mr. Chairman, I move the committee rise and report progress and ask to sit again tomorrow Monday afternoon.

**Mr. Chairman** Motion is that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Monday. The regular question — all in favour say "aye", contrary minded "nay". Carried.

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

#### October 20, 1947

**Mr. Cashin** Mr. Chairman, before I move this House into a committee of the whole to further consider this Finance Report,<sup>1</sup> there is a matter which I would like to draw to your attention, and to the attention of the delegates; that is with reference to the remarks made in connection with the compilation of the Finance Report on Friday afternoon by the delegate from Bonavista Centre, Mr. Smallwood. In commenting on this report,

Mr. Smallwood, consciously or unconsciously, would lead one to believe that myself and those associated with me practically cooked up the figures and, whilst he might not have meant it, at the same time it was conveyed to the outside public that such was the case. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, I asked you on Saturday, after hearing these things from outside, to call a special meeting of the Steering Committee this morning, and

<sup>1</sup>Volume II:369.