

Mr. Smallwood The company is in another country.

Mr. Higgins I know. If the iron ore was valued at \$2, and if the selling price was \$6 a ton, do you

mean to tell me that Mr. Allen is going to let that crowd get away with that?

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

April 18, 1947

Mr. Chairman I have just received a communication from the Newfoundland Broadcasting Corporation, which the Secretary will now read to you.

Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland

April 18, 1947.

F.G. Bradley, K.C., LL.B.,

Chairman, National Convention.

Honourable Sir,

In view of certain statements made by Mr. P.J. Cashin, a member of the National Convention, during the proceedings at a recent case in the Supreme Court, the Broadcasting Corporation feels it should have some assurance from the Convention on its attitude towards the recording and subsequent broadcasting of proceedings of the sessions of the Convention.

Would you please ascertain the wishes of the Convention in this respect and advise us accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

The Broadcasting Corporation of Nfld.,

W.F. Galgay, Manager.

Mr. Chairman This communication is now before you, gentlemen.

Mr. Higgins I presume the intention of this letter is that the Corporation wishes to know the feelings of the Convention with respect to broadcasting — whether it is our direct wish that the broadcasting of the debates be continued or not. Speaking for myself, I am sorry that it happened at the beginning, but now that it is here and people have been listening in as fully as we feel they have been, it might be rather regrettable if it were discontinued at this stage.

Mr. Reddy I concur with Mr. Higgins.

Mr. Starkes I agree with Mr. Higgins. The people in the outports have no chance whatever to hear the proceedings of the Convention as far as newspapers are concerned. The people in St. John's have the daily papers, but the people in the outports, if they can't listen in, have no means of hearing it.

Mr. Bailey In the district I come from, the

people look to the radio for the broadcasting of what the Convention is doing. I agree with Mr. Higgins too, that I would have voted against it had it been put to the question, but since it is in the House I feel it should be continued.

Mr. Higgins I feel that I would prefer to keep them in, so that there would be no implication with respect to a certain case arising out of the use of it.

Mr. Miller Our duty here is to survey Newfoundland's position. Now in doing that we must sometimes be ruthless. We must go without regard to the law. We are not always going to be free of libel. Are we going to forfeit the right to give the public this information, or are we going to forfeit half the issue as far as Newfoundland is concerned? Fifty years hence, will it be better that the people will have gotten our chatter here, limited and restricted, or will it be better that we disregard that? We will be at a loss, too, if we don't get out and talk to our districts, and the people will be at a loss, but won't we do a better job if we disregard that and go into the situation deeply and having fully explored it all, then give our just opinion on the whole thing?

Mr. Hollett I notice some remarks have been made about one of the remarks of a certain member of this Convention yesterday. I don't exactly know what these references were, but I do know this: that this Convention was definitely referred to yesterday as a debating society. If we are purely and simply a debating society, I think there is very little room for these microphones here. That came up, as I remember, in a discussion on the matter of privilege. We were compared to a debating society, and had no more privilege than that. I feel that the presence of the microphones very certainly informs the general public as to the proceedings that have taken place. I do feel, however, that there are occasions when it would be wise that the prior discussion of certain matters, at any rate, should not go out over the air, but merely the decision arrived at by the Convention by a discussion which, in some cases, might possibly be heated. I don't think that is conducive