

Mr. Chairman Do you rise to a point in order?

Mr. Fudge Yes, there is too much laughing and noise going on.

Mr. Chairman That is true. Will the people in the gallery please remember that there is no disorder permitted in this House.

Mr. Smallwood The member for Grand Falls gave us the benefit of his researches into the British North America Act, which is the constitution of Canada. He quotes section 146.... It is surprising to me, the keen interest he has been showing in this matter of confederation.... Perhaps he wants us to join the union. Let us take him at his word. Let us admit that is the way to join. I see the second senior member for St. John's West looking at me — I may not mention his name — I think in the back of his mind he is hoping strongly we will have our own elected government in this country. So am I. Let us trace it. The delegation goes over to the British government and asks them to state what they are prepared to do for us if anything. They will tell us. We send a delegation to Ottawa and ask them what they are prepared to offer. We have both these pieces of information and we get down to talking about forms of government. Let us say we recommend this: ... (a) that Commission government be continued; (b) that we go back to responsible government; (c) that we have responsible government in union with Canada according to the terms handed to the National Convention by the Canadian government on such and such a date.

The referendum is held. You cannot go any higher than the people of Newfoundland. The gentleman from St. John's West agreed on that. They are our bosses. I like to think that when they see those terms, they will say, "That looks pretty good, we will vote for it." What are we up against? You have Commission of Government. They are here. But the referendum is held and the people have voted for confederation. Where do we go from here? That is what is worrying the gentleman from Grand Falls. You have your election. Why not? The people have voted for responsible...

Mr. Cashin It is on your mind.

Mr. Smallwood Does that surprise you? For seven years I scarcely missed a night advocating responsible government. Do not look too pleased over that. I am worried about whether we can

afford it or not. I would like to have responsible government, because I believe in it. The gentleman from Grand Falls said, "Are you going to have a better system of government than they have in the mother country?" I agree, they have responsible government in the old country, and I would like to see it here too. I hope they can afford it over there. It looks a bit doubtful just now.

Mr. Cashin We have been helping them out!

Mr. Smallwood The point is this: responsible government by all means if it does not put too great a burden on our people and keep up the cost of living. If union with Canada would help us to make it pay, let's have it. That's what I want to find out, what have they got to offer us. Maybe if these terms are brought back I will stand up in this house, and show you a lot of fancy talking against those terms.

We will say the people vote for confederation, what is the next step after the referendum? Simple enough. Call for a general election, issue your new Letters Patent, call the houses together, the upper house and the lower house ... and we will have our two houses of parliament. I can see the Major (is it against the rules to say that Mr. Chairman?), I can see him bringing it in next January in this house, which would be the House of Assembly, "Whereas in the National Referendum the people of Newfoundland by a majority decided to accept union with Canada, therefore be it resolved that we now address a petition to His Majesty the King, praying that His Majesty may be graciously pleased to legislate Newfoundland into confederation with Canada." I can see myself seconding it.... It is legal and constitutional, and this is the nice thing about it, that if the decision is made it will be made by the Newfoundland people. I am sure if the gentleman from Grand Falls were given a chance to decide for the people of Newfoundland, he would say, "Oh no, let the people decide that." Well, if the people decide it, what is wrong with it? Let the people's will be done if the heavens fall, if they vote for it that's the end of it. All we have to do is call our parliament, get both houses elected and send our address to the king.

There may be other points that the Major brought in that I ought to deal with, but I don't want to get him angry, I am so anxious that the Major and I should be good friends. There are