

we get 50 cents to the dollar, etc.

**Mr. Vardy** Mr. Smallwood referred to me being an authority on local roads, and I believe I can claim that honour somewhat, since I have been for many years connected with these schemes. I was chairman of the first road committee around Random.<sup>1</sup> I am chairman of that still and several others. Notwithstanding the fact that I have interested myself in roads, I am not dead or ready for a cemetery, notwithstanding the remarks made on the radio last night where they referred to a dead Convention and a dead country.

Regarding these local road committees, first there is a magistrate of the district, who is really the local government officer today, and very useful in that capacity. He has to interest himself first in some particular locality, go there, call together two or three people and ask them if they would interest themselves in forming a local roads committee. There must be three, two members and a chairman. They must submit certain facts regarding mileage, etc., to the magistrate. He turns that over to the officials in St. John's, who in turn send back the authority for that local road committee to go on with the work, and allocate a certain amount of money to it. The amount is really very much better than \$25 per mile or 25 cents per person. I may say that although I have been most critical of the Commission of Government, I can hand it out to them there, they have done very good work. Never have I had a request turned down.... I cannot find words too hard to criticise them for their neglect of these outside places for ten or twelve years, but today I must be fair; if the people get together and show a spirit to help themselves, the Department of Public Works will definitely go the other half way and much farther to help them....

**Mr. Vincent** Mr. Chairman, debating in this Convention, whether termed sensible or silly by the observer, is fast becoming as real as the measles and twice as much fun. Yesterday Mr. Smallwood literally said, "Come on fellows wade in with a flying tackle and a body slam and give 'em all you've got." However, try as he might, the chairman of the Transportation Committee could work up no enthusiasm, and there was a marked reluctance on the part of the Convention to do any in-fighting with the bureaucrats or their subordinates in the Commission of

Government. Even Mr. Hollett, who is generally in the thick of the battle, and who, when his stock of prose runs out, can always quote trenchant lines from Milton's poetic pen, was not in his usual fighting mood. Two months ago I said that with the facts at present at my command, if a plebiscite were held tomorrow, I would vote for a retention of the present form of government. Now, like my learned friend, Mr. Higgins, I too have to make an apology for a former statement made in this House, and I do apologise for saying that. It was my intention to reserve judgement until I had time to study other reports, but after a study of the Gander airport, tourist and railway sections of the report, I am fully satisfied in my own mind that the policies of the present administration not only do not make sense, but that they are made without any proper consideration for either the fisherman, the farmer or the labourer of this country.

I term Gander airport a liability. The refusal of the government to co-operate with the Tourist Board for the further development of that industry was unwise and poor business. I cannot talk with any degree of exactitude on the railway. My district is not even remotely connected with a railroad town, and to us, when en route to the capital with its paved roads and magnificent highways, the sight of the old train engine puffing down the grade from Glenwood into Gambo Station is as welcome as a rich uncle back from Australia, especially after we have beaten through 40 miles of country on what's usually a two day trip in winter by boat, dogs and horses. I wonder if the seriousness of the need for communications to the northern outports is apparent to this Convention. Mr. Newell touched on the fringe of that yesterday, and Mr. Roberts, speaking with the courage of his convictions, said in effect, forget that transinsular highway, and first concentrate on connecting up with civilisation some of our godforsaken outport communities. Since some of you did get, to quote my friend Mr. Newell, "district minded" yesterday, you will permit me to be sectional for a moment and acquaint you with the appalling situation as regards roads in Bonavista North. Let's assume that a fisherman from, say, Lumsden is told by our hospital doctor that his wife needs hospitalisation at St. John's. The first thing he

<sup>1</sup>On Random Island, Trinity Bay.