

might induce us to make things appear other than they really are should be kept in the background. We know that the most solid foundation of a true democracy is a well-informed electorate. I am personally not aspiring to any place in any future political service of this country. But I do desire that which will produce the most good for the most people.

Going back briefly to touch on the document before us on the question of confederation ... I believe that I am correct in saying that the average man ... wants some definite information, something he can clearly understand, and I think I am correct in saying that he wishes to have this. One, what will be the purchasing ability of his dollar under the Canadian set-up as compared with the present? Two, what taxes in every particular and the nature of those taxes payable as compared with ours. Three, he wishes so far as is possible to have a fair knowledge of the whole confederation question that he may place that knowledge side by side with the knowledge he has of Commission of Government and responsible government and act accordingly. He wants the comparative picture all around so far as that is possible to give....

Mr. Chairman, speaking of faith, faith in ourselves, faith in our neighbours, we can only show our faith in the common sense, sound reasoning power and good judgement of our fellow men by being honest and above-board, by furnishing truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The people of this country do not expect to get something for nothing. They have not been brought up that way. And because they have not been brought up that way, all who are responsible, they want to know how much they have to contribute towards providing these things. Speaking of family allowances, old age pensions — these are good things, without a doubt. I have for years been greatly interested in the question of providing a decent pension for our old age fishermen. I introduced a scheme at the opening of this Convention but the Convention having no legislative powers, nothing could be done about it.... I find myself not quite in agreement with the Canadian pension scheme as outlined in the act before us. First, the age is quite unsuitable.... It is too late in life and then again there is the claim of the pension authorities upon the estate of the pensioner. I do not like the scheme and am con-

vinced that very few in Newfoundland would approve of in its present form. But I feel that it's possible to improve that scheme and so make it suit our people. I believe, in connection with the old age fishermen's pension, that it should come about through the medium of contributions on their part either directly or indirectly, because it is common knowledge that one appreciates to a greater extent that to which they made a contribution than that which comes to them apart from that....

I am most anxious that the Convention finish its work as quickly as possible. So I do not propose to speak at length. I sincerely hope that between now and the day of the referendum, that our people will have gleaned a general knowledge of the possibilities for Newfoundland under the forms of government which are to be placed on the ballot paper, and from which they shall have to make a choice. Whatever our future form of government may be ... its path will be by no means strewn with roses. We will acquire, whatever the form of government, strong, fair, sincere men at the helm. Co-operation will be necessary between government and people and there must be a full realisation of the necessity of each to each. The time will eventually come sir, when we shall be called upon to make a grave decision, such a decision as we have never been called upon in our day to make, a most serious decision upon which will depend what may be the future welfare of our children and our children's children. In the light of that, Mr. Chairman, God grant that our decision may be based on sound reasoning and not on selfishness and fear.

*[Short recess]*

**Mr. Smallwood** I'm not going to use up much of the precious time we have left talking generalities. I'm going to use my share of it answering point by point the almost countless wrong charges made against these terms of confederation. But there is one general remark I do want to make because it badly needs to be made. We've been told by speaker after speaker how complicated these terms are. They've been telling us again and again how hard they are to understand. They tried to paint a picture of something so hard to understand, so complicated, so mixed up and confused, so inaccurate and so lacking in information that it would be just a waste of time for our people to try to understand