

government was raised, I would like to make this one brief statement. When we have reviewed the report that has come back from London; when we see where we stand as far as the British government and Newfoundland are concerned; and when we receive the report of the delegation that is to proceed to Ottawa — when we get all these reports, together with the facts we have gleaned about our own country and its finances and prospects, and the people of this country should make the decision to stand alone, though that decision should involve a certain amount of poverty — in other words they are prepared to be poor but proud — I want to say that they will earn my undying respect, and that I will do whatever I can. But there are two observations I want to make. One is, I have never been prepared to compromise that such a decision must be made by the whole people of Newfoundland, including the people to whom the future may be hardest, because it has always been our fate that when the boot has been too small it has always pinched hardest on the smallest toes. I think the people most directly concerned in any sacrifice should be heard from before that sacrifice is imposed upon them. If they take it willingly, more power and more credit to them. Secondly, ... regardless how much you or I may come here and talk of what we will do in the future, there has never been in this country any equality of sacrifice on the part of all people. If there had been, perhaps we should never be in the position we are today. When we are prepared to stand together and take that equality of sacrifice, perhaps we shall have the right to tell other people they are not what they should be. Let us not scorn any man for looking to the security of his future, when our own future is as secure as we want it to be.

Mr. Vincent Mr. Chairman, the London delegation, back from the heart of empire, brought to members of this assembly a memorandum, endorsed by only five of the seven delegates comprising that delegation....

I was much impressed to hear one of the delegates say, in effect, yesterday, "The Dominions Office told us, if you want to negotiate and discuss the matters listed in this memorandum, or this seven point program to which I referred a few minutes ago, go get yourselves a government." Strangely enough, however, the London visit seemed to give added support to the strange

opinions that some of the members already held, for one of the members of the delegation yesterday implied in his talk that all was long ago decided, meaning, of course, Newfoundland's future form of government. Other implications were that we were being sold up the river, and that dark and sinister influences were at work, and some cold, grey, forbidding morning the 300,000 of us little people would wake up in a sunless world to find that we had been pawned off to some other nation. Somebody talked in platitudes to say what we need is faith in Newfoundland, but I say what we really need is faith in ourselves, faith to believe that the fishermen down in Lumsden, the good housewife in Gambo, the enterprising farmer in Eastport, all have enough ordinary common sense, enough average intelligence, to prevent anybody, even Mr. Smallwood, from selling us anywhere, and that they don't need the 44 men of this Convention to do their thinking for them.

I do not care if Mr. Fudge, proud, patriotic and loyal though he be, uses as his slogan "Thou too sail on, O ship of state, Sail on O country strong and great", or if Mr. Smallwood, fired and enthused with his federal union idea, wails his appeal to Canada to throw out the lifeline — no, I am not in the least concerned. I have one vote, and I do not have a price, and like myself there are many thousands of my fellow countrymen who, in the hour of decision, will be guided not by catch cries or slogans, not by impassioned speeches, not exactly by what this Convention thinks collectively or individually, but by what they find to be in the best interest of the Newfoundland we love. Why then should this Convention become obsessed with its own importance, worried by fears of its own imagining, so much so as to darkly contemplate outside influences, and internal traitors banding together to work our economic, financial and political collapse? Gentlemen, the main conclusion I draw from this debate is that the mother country gives us a guarantee that is at best provisional upon her ability to stand behind the guarantee. Should we then, on this very uncertain assumption, retain in power a government whose policies we all claim are not in the best interest of this island? Perhaps the main objective of the London delegation was to find out under what terms, if any, the British government would be prepared to continue the