

elected members of this National Convention, and whatever was given to one man should be given to the whole Convention. Why should things be culled out, and why should they be passed on to some? Then we can get down and get a clear picture of the whole thing.

Mr. Chairman Whether they should have given that undertaking or not is something on which I am not prepared to comment. I am sure that they were acting in good faith, but whether they should have given the undertaking or not is entirely immaterial. If they gave the undertaking you have no right to require them to break the undertaking.

Mr. Bailey But my argument is that they should not have been placed in that position in the first place, because every member of this National Convention should have access to the same information.

Mr. Burry I would like to make myself clear on that point. When I accepted these minutes and other information in those envelopes marked "Secret", I accepted them as secret, but not with the understanding that it was to be kept away from this Convention. It was a convenience agreed among us that it should be done that way, and we were to receive official documents when we left; and these are the official documents. I have read them through, and I have my secret information and minutes, and I have read these through, and there is nothing in that secret information that is not embodied in these documents here, if not word for word, certainly in the spirit of it. I accepted the secret information with the understanding that it would be given to us officially, and we were to take back to this Convention official documents that we would agree upon as a result of our meeting there. There is nothing in the secret documents that I would not have this Convention receive. If I had known that I would not have accepted them. When I went to Ottawa I went there to do my best, and to bring back everything that went on there, as far as I could possibly do it. I have done it, sir, in these official documents, and I have nothing whatever to hold back from the Convention....

Mr. Hickman I am glad that this point was brought up. I was going to ask why they were left out, but I don't have to ask now. Mr. Smallwood has said that what was in the Black Book, the official handout from the Canadian government,

was selected by the Canadian government, and I can quite understand why some paragraphs may have been left out. The Canadian government would not select something that would not look very good to some Newfoundlanders. I brought up that question yesterday, and asked Mr. Smallwood if there was any assurance or any guarantee that if the Canadian National Railway took over our Railway that they would retain the same number of employees that we have working today. Mr. Smallwood said that there was no assurance, and possibly there would not be. I can quite see that, but, as Mr. Fogwill just pointed out, when I asked him this question, and if he had this information in front of him, why could he not have answered me and told me that? As it says here: "This looks to be an undue number in relation to the size of the operation." If that's the opinion of the officials who constitute the government and from whom the cabinet take their findings, it may be that they might say, "We will cut this staff 25%, and lay 90 or 100 men off." I asked that yesterday, and I don't see why Mr. Smallwood could not have brought that out. It would have satisfied me. I heard nothing about it until Mr. Higgins brought it up today. I don't want to say too much, but it doesn't seem right to me the way some things are going. Twice Mr. Smallwood was reading words there that were not in the report, and if we are going to have the report...

Mr. Smallwood I rise to a point of order. I ask Mr. Hickman to take that back.

Mr. Hickman You read the other night "freely provided", and it was not in the report.

Mr. Chairman Mr. Hickman, you are not entitled to say that. Where it said "gratuitously" he said "freely", which of course has the same meaning.

Mr. Hickman I am not making insinuations, but I want to get what is in the Black Book, and not Mr. Smallwood's interpretations.

Mr. Chairman But it happens to be a fair interpretation of the word "gratuitously", and I don't think you are imputing any ulterior motive to him.

Mr. Hickman I was not imputing an ulterior motive, but I can't agree that "gratuitously" and "freely" are the same in this matter here.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Hickman will turn to page 5, section 17, he will see why I