

government. Mr. Chairman, if I were as ardent a confederate as Mr. Smallwood, I would go out and campaign vigorously for the carrying out of the agreement of 1933, and then I would further campaign this country in the interests of the retention of Commission of Government. I would do this because I feel sure that it is the policy of the United Kingdom government, the historical imperial policy, that Newfoundland must become a part of Canada. I would campaign, if I were Mr. Smallwood, for the retention of Commission government, because I would feel confident that the Commission government, through its bosses in Downing Street, would hand this country over to Canada, lock, stock and barrel, within six months after the referendum was taken, should the people decide to continue under commission form of government. I challenge any member of the Commission government, and particularly do I challenge the representative of the United Kingdom government on that Commission, to come out openly and honestly and tell the people that their bosses in Downing Street are not using their efforts to bring Newfoundland into union with the Dominion of Canada. If they deny that such is the case, then I say to them, each and every member of the Commission government: tell us why you are not prepared to carry out your agreement with the people of Newfoundland, and why you have been spending and are continuing to spend the money belonging to the people of Newfoundland like a bunch of drunken sailors, which in my opinion is being done for the sole purpose of trying to break our country. Take up this morning's paper — the revenue and expenditures are given — \$31.6 million in revenue and practically the same in expenditure for nine months; and an indication given by the Commissioner of Finance, that we are going to have a deficit this year on a \$40 million revenue. What is that but deliberately squandering the taxpayers' money, and it is being done purposely.

I go further now and state, Mr. Chairman, that the financial policy of the Commission government is more or less being run from Ottawa at the present time. We all know that because of the financial difficulties of the Canadian nation, with particular emphasis on its shortage of American dollars, that an austerity program has been launched in order to conserve United States dol-

lars; that heavy increases in taxation have been imposed; that Canadians travelling between Canada and the United States are at present being subjected by Canadian Customs officials to the most undignified examination of their person and their personal belongings, which treatment is also being meted out to Newfoundland citizens travelling between Canada and the United States on their own business with their own money. This policy is now being felt right here in our own country, despite the fact that Newfoundland has a favourable balance of trade with the United States. Now here is the position. All the newsprint is sold in American funds, plus all the ore from Buchans. At least \$40 million of American funds coming out of Newfoundland, whereas we buy very little, \$20 million or \$25 million from the United States, therefore we have a credit which Canada benefits from, and our people are being subjected to undignified search in case they have a \$20 American bill stuck down in their sock or anything like that. Their own money. An announcement has been made from Ottawa that this policy will be continued until 1950. Again with respect to the controlling of our finances by Canadian politicians, I would like to bring your minds back to February, 1943, when the Commission government imposed the retroactive income tax legislation. You yourself, Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Newfoundland Board of Trade, proposed a motion at a public meeting of that body condemning such iniquitous and dictatorial legislation. Let me tell you, sir, and let me tell the people of Newfoundland, that this particular legislation, what I would term immoral legislation, was enacted at the instance of the then Canadian finance minister, for the purpose of curbing inflation. The people of Newfoundland, who include the businessmen as well as the ordinary workers, were reaping rewards which has been due them for over 80 years.

I have heard people saying that all our prosperity was due to the war. Why 80 years ago this base construction was recommended to the British government, but it took them 80 years to find out the importance of the country. Our people had just emerged from untold suffering and privation. Their every belonging had been swept away during the depression of the 30s. They had been forced to exist on six cents a day for nearly ten years. The construction of