

we all came into this House with one purpose only, to do a job and to show to the people of Newfoundland and the world that we can still produce legislators in this country; and because of that I say we have not done the country or ourselves credit by some of the remarks made in this debate. In future, please let us try and get our minds a little above the old days that this House had to put up with in the days of responsible government. If we are going to be a board of judges, we have to try and be impartial, without heat, abuse, or personal scurrility. I am convinced that we can do it and there is no necessity of our going down to the gutter where we have been in the past few days. We should do the job which we were sent here to do. For that reason I do not see why the decision should be delayed any longer than tonight. Once the decision is made, let us be finished with it entirely until the matter has to come before us for final decision. I agree with Mr. Fudge to the extent that it has meant taking sides; it has meant bad committee work and in a lot of cases, no committee work at all. We should try in future to keep the discussions on the level they should be and not let personalities come into it. Unfortunately, Mr. Smallwood has turned this House into a personal debate against him. When we have such notices in the paper as "They dug the grave but Joe was not in it", it is getting beyond a joke. In view of the indefiniteness of Mr. Penney's amendment and the general wish of all the delegates to have it examined, I am prepared to vote for the amendment put forward by Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Penney May I speak to the original amendment.

Mr. Chairman You have spoken to that. You might speak to the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. Penney I introduced the amendment, but I did not make any address in connection with it at the time.

Mr. Chairman Unfortunately a member doing as you did is considered to have spoken to the subject matter of the motion. However, it is a matter for the Convention to deal with. With the permission of the Convention you may be allowed to speak to the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. Penney My proper understanding was an amendment contained very few words. The motion contained a lot of words and the mover talked

half an hour to introduce it to this House and half an hour this afternoon to reply; then the supporter addressed this House quite a lengthy time. If it is in order, I would like to speak.

Mr. Chairman I take it for granted that Convention has no objection to your talking now.

Mr. Penney Before reading the remarks I have prepared, I would like to say that I did not consult or confer with members of this Convention, or with my sponsors or friends in Carbonear or with anyone, and this is the only opportunity I may have of addressing this House before a decision is made for or against the original amendment. I thank Mr. Roberts, representing the district of St. Barbe for seconding the amendment and the other gentlemen who have supported it, and especially the representatives of labour in this House who through their organisations have closer contact with the people of Newfoundland than perhaps anyone else here.

I have listened to the addresses this afternoon of able speakers, and to the mover of the amendment to the amendment — an old politician, an able speaker, and a fine man. His amendment to the amendment was put in a very subtle way; but I say to members of this House, beware and think before you act. Since introducing this amendment, I have been particularly interested in the debate which followed, more particularly the part concerning the amendment itself. The amendment contained few words and that was in striking contrast to the motion. Before deciding to move an amendment, it seemed to me that there was something fishy about the whole resolution and I decided to oppose it. Since then and after listening to members' expressions of opinion, and noting newspaper comments, I am more than ever convinced that my sense of suspicion is more than justified. Further I believe that there was a political attempt to disrupt the feeling of this Convention at a time when it needed peace. True, the wording of this attempt was camouflaged in a fact-finding mission to Ottawa at the expense of this country, but I may say that my sponsors and friends in the district of Carbonear did not give a priority mandate to study the affairs of Canada first, they did give me a mandate to study and examine the affairs of Newfoundland first and foremost. That is how I understand it. If I am wrong, then I would say that these level-headed men made a great mistake in