

January 12, 1948

Mr. Chairman Order please. Major Cashin?

Mr. Cashin Mr. Chairman, I move that the first item on the order paper be deferred, and draw your attention, and the attention of the House to the fact that a couple of questions have not been answered—one I asked on Friday last in connection with the Savings Bank, and another one asked on November 24. Part of it has been answered; and another part has not been answered, that is the part relative to the Bank of Canada. I am very anxious that we be either denied such an answer or given one, because as I said on Friday, these two particular matters are of the utmost importance, one part on the Newfoundland Savings Bank, and the other part on the Bank of Canada. Our whole discussion rests, in my opinion, on these two matters. I would like to have the Secretary ask the government whether we are going to get these answers or not.

Mr. Chairman With regard to your question about the Savings Bank, Major Cashin, I am afraid I will have to assume responsibility because for some unexplainable reason it escaped my attention until this afternoon. It was tabled Friday, and I missed it, and it was not until this afternoon that my attention was drawn to it. Immediately after I called a meeting of the Information Committee, and it will go forward to the government this afternoon; but its delay is my fault.

Mr. Cashin I know we will get it Tuesday or Wednesday, or we should get it, but the other is of the utmost importance, and our request has been absolutely ignored. It was asked on November 24, and today is January 12, and we have not received any reply. We have received replies to other questions regarding Canadian financial matters, but this particular one has been ignored so far....

Mr. Chairman And your request is that a supplementary application be directed immediately to the Governor in Commission?

Mr. Cashin That the Secretary would communicate with the Government in Commission, that is Mr. Carew I take it, the Secretary of the Commission government, and ask him what has been done about these two questions. All he has to do is phone him and find out.

Mr. Chairman Yes, we will have that attended to immediately. The motion is that order one on

the order paper be deferred. Is the Convention ready for the question?

[The motion carried]

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I will move that motion, but in doing so I would like to get a little information. The debate on these confederation terms is coming rapidly to an end, it will come to an end this week, and I take it that a number of members in the Convention desire to speak, and I am wondering just what is the right method, and the best method, of deciding who may and who may not speak. Now I took particular notice of the fact that when Major Cashin gave a nod to Mr. Fogwill, he got up to speak, and when Major Cashin gave a nod to Mr. Higgins, Mr. Higgins got up and spoke.

Mr. Cashin I rise to a point of order. I never gave any nod to Mr. Fogwill.

Mr. Smallwood You will pardon me, but I saw him give a nod to Mr. Fogwill, and also to Mr. Higgins. Now what I want to know is this, to whom is the next nod to be given, after Mr. Higgins finishes? Is Mr. Cashin to give the nod, or Mr. Higgins? If Mr. Butt, for example, is to follow Mr. Higgins, will he wait till Mr. Higgins gives the nod, or will he watch Major Cashin to get the nod from him. Well, sir, would he get it from you? Who is Chairman here? Who decides, and who does not?

Mr. Higgins I rise to a point of order. This is entirely immaterial in every way. Mr. Smallwood has no reason under heaven to make such an assertion. It is entirely improper for him to do so, and as far as Major Cashin giving me a nod, if he did I did not see it, and as far as I know he did not give me a nod.... There is no giving nods around here. As far as I am concerned there's no giving nods to people. Mr. Smallwood has been giving nods himself a long time now. We will give our own nods.

Mr. Chairman The position, as far as I am concerned is just simply this: that the person who catches my eye gets the floor. I am not supposed to see anything else, and I don't see anything else.... All I can simply say is this: that as far as I know the person who first got my eye was the person who got the floor, except on one occasion when Major Cashin and you occupied the floor simultaneously, and in that particular instance I feel, Mr. Smallwood, that you have no reason to