

was at a time when we had not gotten anywhere in our studies of our own country's affairs, but which up to that time we were all endeavouring to do, calmly and dispassionately. So it seems clear now, if it was not then, that there was something behind that move that certainly was not helpful to this Convention, because it definitely split us into two groups, and the gap created then has opened wider and wider through continuous confederation propaganda, until we find ourselves today lined up in two opposing sides awaiting a final decision. In pointing to the reason and cause why this Convention has not been able to perform the duties assigned it sooner can be definitely attributed to confederation propaganda, no matter what may be said to the contrary, I have come to believe that there was a planned scheme to try and sell out our country to Canada from the very beginning.

Mr. Smallwood Point of order. "Planned scheme to sell out the country to Canada from the beginning." Every time this man gets off that kind of insulting remark, I am getting on my feet. I am a member of this Convention. I was elected here. I have the rights of a member. These rights say I shall not be insulted by a member's imputing dishonest motives to me, even by a man such as this man.

Mr. Chairman I am cognisant of the fact that you are a member of this Convention. I am compelled to rule that you are not permitted to use language that is calculated to impute dishonesty, and which is offensive in character, to any member of the house. I have to rule that Mr. Smallwood's point is well taken and I have to rule you out of order, Mr. Penney.

Mr. Penney Could I be permitted to use the word "barter"?

Mr. Chairman I do not think you ought to use language to impute dishonest motives. You may disagree with his motives or his politics, but I do not think you are entitled to impute he is dishonest in his beliefs simply because of the fact that you do not agree with his beliefs.

Mr. Penney I was trying to follow down the history of confederation and to show it was a planned move in this Convention.

Mr. Chairman Please do so, but do not impute dishonesty to any member of the House.

Mr. Penney The one thing I cannot understand is that when a motion was moved that we send a

delegation to Washington, we were turned down flatly. Having opposed the first attempt (I was home with the flu when the second attempt was made) to force confederation over and above all else on this Convention, I feel it my duty to say I am opposed to all attempts to make terms with Canada at this time, until at any rate the people of Newfoundland have been given a fair chance to elect their own government and initiate trade talks with Washington, in the belief that no true-blooded Newfoundlander would dare consent to barter away — is that all right, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman Yes, that is all right in that sense.

Mr. Penney Before making absolutely sure that the price is the very best obtainable and nothing less than the best, if and when we should be obliged to sell at all.

The so-called terms as contained in the Black and Grey Books are most certainly not the best obtainable for Newfoundland, notwithstanding the persistent and sustained efforts of the confederate-in-chief and his supporters to try and make you believe otherwise. The pros and cons of these so-called terms have been debated since November 1947, so that now all are wise to their implications. The able addresses of delegates Job, Higgins, Cashin, Crosbie, Harrington, Butt, Fudge, Hollett, Reddy, Hickman, Cranford and others, have shown clearly what is involved in this proposition, while one could, I was going to say, smell the scent of senators' seats in some of the supporters of this scheme.

Mr. Smallwood Point of order. Is this man permitted under your guidance and under your control to make these remarks, and then having made them, force me to a point of order after they are made? Is he going to defy your ruling? You have ordered that he is not to impute dishonesty. Now he has made the remark imputing dishonesty, that we who are advocating confederation are doing it for senatorships. Is that honest on his part? Is it parliamentary? Have I got to stand for it? Have Mr. Ashbourne and Mr. Burry to stand for it?

Mr. Chairman Never mind Mr. Ashbourne or Mr. Burry. You take your seat. I am compelled to remind you of the provisions of standing order 21, "No member may use offensive or unbecoming words." This is the third time I have had to remind you. You are not to use any more offensive language. If you do I will definitely have to rule you out of order, and I will not be prepared