

remember reading or hearing that it was being paid in installments, but from what fund I don't know....

Mr. Cashin I think we will have to get Mr. Neill on the carpet again.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Smallwood, what is the meaning of the third paragraph on page 2?

Mr. Smallwood Well, there was a formal taking over of Gander on April 1 by the Division of Civil Aviation. You see the Canadian government, on April 17, 1941, took over Gander to operate it as a war airport, and on April 1, 1946, the government took back formal possession of Gander, the operation and control of it, and housekeeping there was assumed by the Division of Civil Aviation.

Mr. Higgins They began from the first of April?

Mr. Smallwood Actually the Division was operating there before that and controlling parts of Gander during the winter. They began taking men on in February or March, but it was on April 1 that they formally and officially took over and began to operate.

Mr. Higgins It was merely the wording that I was questioning.

Mr. Smallwood I still don't get you.

Mr. Starkes If Newfoundland was represented at this convention in making this deal in connection with the Gander, would they not be entitled to have a copy of the minutes of that meeting to bring back to their country, and could not this Committee get a copy of those minutes for the Convention?

Mr. Smallwood They could certainly try to get those minutes, but guaranteeing to get them is a horse of another colour. I would suggest that anything of that nature now come from the Convention as a whole. Major Cashin is chairman of the Finance Committee and he might be able to dig up a lot of that stuff better than we could.

Mr. Cashin Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee receive this report now, and take up the other one to-morrow. I think we have gone pretty thoroughly into it, there is a lot of information that we can't get, but it may be forthcoming later when the Finance Report comes in. Mr. Neill will certainly have to come before us again. We can't let him get away with the fact that we can't get the cost of operating up to date. I move therefore that we receive this report.

Mr. Ashbourne Mr. Chairman, does that mo-

tion need a seconder?

Mr. Chairman It is not essential.

Mr. Ashbourne Well, I would like to make a few remarks. I feel, sir, that too frequently concessions have been made to outside companies, and also too sweeping concessions. I believe that the vast majority of the people of Newfoundland have thought that the airports on our soil would have been real assets to this country, and not, as we find out today, a liability. I rather regret that I see no reference in this report to Goose airport, because I believe that when the lease of that was made to Canada there was quite a spirited comment in the public press. The government should certainly have asked the people of this country for their views through the press before these terms were agreed upon. I would like to know whether these agreements are covered by leases, and how long these leases run? I would also like to have a copy of these leases if we could secure them.

I also note that between the estimate of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Utilities and Mr. Pattison there is half a million dollars disparity, and furthermore I would like to see these figures broken down in both cases, so that we may know why there should be this disparity. Regarding a point that has already been mentioned I would like to see the corresponding scales of landing charges elsewhere I think that we would be wise in not railroading an important matter like this through. I feel that there is quite a bit more information this Convention could demand before this report is finally accepted.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I don't want to delay the House, but I am glad Mr. Ashbourne referred to the estimates. I remember the excitement in Gander the night that Mr. Wild delivered his last budget. It was generally believed in Gander that Britain was footing the bills on the operating losses of the airport, so on the night that Mr. Wild delivered his budget, it was broadcast and everyone who could get to a radio was there, and I remember very vividly the sentence that Mr. Wild used. It was this: "Newfoundland is primarily responsible for the operation of Gander". The word "primarily" struck me between the eyes. Why did he not say "Newfoundland is responsible", why "primarily responsible"? I knew the government did not