

the motion and once on the amendment — just as a matter of guidance?

Mr. Chairman Strictly, the debate on the first question should continue until the termination of that debate, when the amendment may be moved and on that amendment any member may speak again.

Mr. Smallwood In the circumstances in which within half an hour of the motion's having been moved, an amendment is moved to it?

Mr. Hollett I rise to speak against the motion, but in case there is any doubt in the mind of my friend, Mr. Smallwood, I am not speaking for the amendment against the motion. It seems to me that I have seen this motion in a different form than what was brought before us today. Apparently there are some discrepancies behind the motion, as to who is or is not the proper authority. The form in which I saw that motion definitely states that His Excellency the Governor be approached to make the necessary arrangements to assure us whether or not the Government of Canada would receive a delegation in order to discuss the terms of confederation. The bringing in of this motion at this particular juncture in our deliberations is so premature as to be positively indecent. Before we have had time to consider and discuss among ourselves the economic and financial position — before we have had time to glance over the initial reports brought in, our friend Mr. Smallwood flew to Quebec and elsewhere and came back from Canada thoroughly prepared to fight this thing to the bitter end with the idea that when this Convention was over it be committed definitely to confederation.

Mr. Smallwood No!

Mr. Hollett I submit it is the truth.

Mr. Smallwood No.

Mr. Hollett Until I see proof to the contrary, I will say it is the truth. Mr. Smallwood has approached the members of this Convention and offered them this, that and the other thing. I myself was offered a senatorship. I fail to see how any one man in this Convention could, on one flying trip, come back with so many portfolios in his bag — Minister of Fisheries and Mines and so on. I fail to see how any man who has an honesty of purpose, who has the public welfare of the people of this country at heart, can be dancing around this town of St. John's, in and out of hotels, offering jobs in Canada if we voted for

confederation. I put it to you Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, these manoeuvres are positively indecent. We are self-thinking individuals elected by our people to come here and thrash out the various things at issue. On the other hand, who are the appropriate authorities of this country? Who are the proper authorities to whom we shall appeal as to whether or not we should send a delegation to Canada to find out the terms of confederation? Here we are, elected by the people, and unfortunately we find we have not even the right to go into public offices and demand certain information. Do you mean to tell me that Canada would discuss with an unauthorised body the terms of confederation? There is a chance that these terms will be eventually turned down. Do you think that any official body in Canada would do anything that would make them appear so ridiculous in the eyes of their own people?

Mr. Smallwood We might ask.

Mr. Hollett Do you want us to go to Canada with our fingers in our mouths and say, "Please Canada, let us in, Mr. Smallwood wants us to go in." I submit, the time is not opportune. If I were eager to do something to have confederation foisted upon this country, I would ask to have the motion withdrawn for consideration by the members.

Mr. Smallwood If I may be allowed, I would like to speak to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman Do you want to make a personal explanation, if so, you may do so. You also have the right, as mover of the resolution, to reply at the end of the debate.

Mr. Smallwood Speaking to the amendment, I may say that members must not suppose that the adoption of the motion means that a delegation is appointed or elected to go to Ottawa immediately. Members must not suppose that the adoption of this motion means that the subject of confederation and terms and conditions of confederation will be brought into this house within the next few days or even the next few weeks. Mr. Hollett has touched on the question of who are the proper authorities. What would happen is that this motion would be forwarded from one authority to the other; possibly to His Excellency the Governor; possibly from him to the Secretary of State for Dominions Affairs in the United Kingdom; possibly from him back to His Excel-