

act *ultra vires* of law as handed out to us by the mother of parliaments, and its passing and implementation violates that which I humbly believe to be a sacred pledge.

Some of us, sir, have been accused of talking politics. Maybe we are. Mr. Bradley, in speaking to Mr. Higgins' motion a few days ago, said that before he was elected he regarded the Convention as a non-political party, but it had not turned out so. I am in accord with Mr. Bradley in that statement, but will the confederates get up and tell us about the secret gathering in St. John's in August 1946, after Mr. Smallwood's return from Canada, prior to the opening of this Convention? Will they tell us about the meeting of these 12 members of the Convention in the Newfoundland Hotel in 1946, shortly after the Convention opened? Will they tell us of their having Mr. Smallwood read them his speech which was to have been delivered on the introduction of the first confederation deliberation motion? Oh no! Do the 12 remember how he was advised not to give that political speech, and how he promised not to read it? But did he give that speech? I ask you gentlemen, did he give it? Oh yes, he gave it, and so brought into this Convention political controversy which has been present ever since. How futile, how silly, to now accuse some of us of playing politics. I wonder what you would call the speeches which the introducer of this motion made? Oh no, not political speeches, just little fireside chats, sir. Now I am not blaming Mr. Smallwood for talking politics. He is right in doing so. He believes in confederation I take it, just as I would deny it as being in the best interests of this country. As for me, I shall not be satisfied until every man and woman in this country is a politician, and then you may expect good government, whether it be confederation, responsible or Commission or some other form.

Now, although I cannot conscientiously vote for this motion, there is very little doubt in my mind but that it will be placed on the ballot. In fact, unless Commonwealth Relations Office has had a change of heart I feel sure that it will be on the ballot. Incidentally I believe Mr. Smallwood visited my constituency, if you might call it that, a couple of weeks ago, and I believe he was asked a certain question relative to that very point, if I can lay hands on it. No. At any rate I remember it very well. He was asked this question a few

weeks ago in Grand Falls: "Do you not really believe that it was the intention of Great Britain and Canada to put Newfoundland into confederation when they drew up the Convention Act?" I am informed that Mr. Smallwood's answer was "yes".

Mr. Smallwood That's a lie, a black lie, whoever informed you.

Mr. Chairman Just a minute, Mr. Smallwood, Mr. Hollett did not say you made the statement. He says, "I am informed that you made the statement." Don't interrupt, Mr. Smallwood, please.

Mr. Hollett He said I am a liar.

Mr. Smallwood Well, whoever informed you, it was a lie.

Mr. Hollett I have no objection to confederation going on the ballot whatsoever. I have pointed out that in my opinion it is not legal for it to go there. That's my opinion, and I may be a liar on that too, but as long as I live I shall express my opinion, and let me say this: in answer to a nasty editorial which appeared in one of our evening papers on Saturday past, let me say that the Convention members who are lined up in favour of the restoration of responsible government have no fear for the results of the referendum; but let me also say that the Convention members who have lined up in favour of confederation are indeed a sorry, sorry group.

Now, sometime ago when discussing these proposals for union with Canada I outlined briefly the history of the tax agreement which the federal government was endeavouring to reach agreement on with the various provincial governments, and I wound up by referring to Canada as "united in war, but divided in peace", and that is undoubtedly a fact. Only the other day Premier Duplessis of Quebec hoisted his provincial flag with great fanfare. No longer will the Union Jack fly from the Quebec provincial legislature building. They will consent to fly it over a side entrance however, should the Governor-General consent to visit Quebec. Are these the people with whom we are to federate? I realise of course that this is a gentle hint to the federal government to keep hands off as far as Quebec is concerned, but even Quebec cannot break away from confederation if she wanted to, except by force of arms. Once we join up with Canada, we join up for keeps. We cannot secede. Mr. Smallwood will tell you that we can, but of course he spoke