

we should send a delegation now or in two weeks or in two months time.... I feel that too much time has been wasted on something that should have been finished many days ago. A gentleman told me this afternoon that he was going to move an amendment to the amendment. I hope he will soon get started and have 45 speeches made on it before it is too late. Personally I think this whole thing should be shelved until January next, and for that reason I support Mr. Bradley's amendment.... I am not a confederate and not supporting any particular form of government; but in the interests of the whole country I would like to see something definite done on this question once and for all.

Mr. Reddy I would like to speak briefly on the motion introduced by Mr. Smallwood. I am favourably impressed with the views of previous speakers. The people of my district are friendly disposed to confederation, and I would like to see all information available brought before this house for consideration with regard to this question. Remember that upon this the destiny of our country may depend, and the weal or woe of 300,000 people may rest. Now the people who sent us delegates here are watching us closely. I may say that the final reports of two committees have been laid aside because of the time spent on these resolutions. Even at that it is not lost time, because it is vitally necessary to have this question explored to the fullest extent and have all information ready at the proper time. If this Convention takes a year to complete its work, what is a year to the life of a country and its people? I was born in this country, lived in this country and I hope to die in this country.... Therefore, with a sincere heart, I will support the amendment.

Mr. Crosbie Mr. Chairman, when this resolution was introduced I was away, unfortunately. However, I heard most of the speeches over the radio and I would like to congratulate some people on the job they did not do. I do not think the time opportune to discuss confederation terms because we have not the facts and figures yet concerning our own country. At the moment the idea of preparing to send a delegation to Ottawa to discuss terms is ridiculous. For argument's sake, I happen to own a business and Mr. Smallwood happens to own a business and we are thinking of amalgamating. Then he asks

me what my assets are. My answer to him would be that I do not know, but if he would not mind waiting a bit to discuss this thing I would let him know at a later date. The same applies to this confederation business, and I fail to see any sound reason for going into it in a hurry. I feel the majority of delegates will view this matter in the same light.... I am not an anti-confederate neither am I a confederate. I am not supporting any particular form of government at the present time; but I am definitely opposed to what has taken place within the past week or so. I will now support the amendment.

Mr. Bailey Mr. Chairman, at this stage I am not going to say much about sending a delegation to Ottawa, but I am sorry that such an issue developed at this time because it smacks of old-time politics.... I move that the resolution be put to a vote so that the Convention will be able to move along on more important business matters.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Bradley made reference to the sounding of the British government. That is a point I would like to be clear on, and would you, sir, explain what possible effect that would have on a spring referendum?

Mr. Chairman I will get the exact words used later, and until then you might let the matter stand over. Is there any other member who wishes to speak before the reply is made by the original mover of the question? If not, the debate on the original question will finish with the reply by the mover of the original question.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, before coming to the main part of my remarks I would like to say how deeply grateful I am for the very many words of encouragement I have received since I moved this resolution on Monday last. By word of mouth, by telephone and by telegraph from many parts of the country these encouraging messages have come, enough to show me, if I had not known before, that this country wants the resolution to pass. And now I reply to my friend Mr. Harrington. I am deeply sorry to find that we are on opposite sides. I did hope it would be otherwise. As he said himself, I was expecting his support of this motion, for months ago he declared to me his intention to do so. From the moment I first met him — that was when he worked with me on the *Book of Newfoundland*¹ — I liked and admired him. I have followed his

¹J.R. Smallwood, (ed.), *The Book of Newfoundland* (2 volumes, St. John's, 1937).