

one; there are others but I am not prepared to make any other suggestions. I do say that there are other forms coming up for discussion when the time comes. I am not prepared and may not *then* be prepared.... I do not know enough about constitutional government and about confederation with Canada, and just how we would come out if we decided to get into confederation. I would like to know more and have an opportunity of thinking it over.... Personally I do not feel I could progress as willingly with the work of the Convention if I did not feel that I would have the information which would enable me to discuss confederation with Canada. I know there is a majority of people in this country and in Labrador who are thinking that this matter of confederation with Canada is a possible way out of our apparent difficulties and in getting a decent living for our people. They may be wrong in that; but there is a considerable number of such people in Newfoundland and Labrador and we should satisfy them by bringing in intelligent observations on that form of government. I feel that I must vote for the resolution in order to get information about other forms of government. I do not feel any member of this Convention would want to deny the people this information. If the machinery is not set up it will delay the Convention, and I do not want to be here longer than I have to be. It is unfair to us if the Convention votes down this motion; other men are getting information about other forms of government; I feel that I should get this information and the machinery should be set up to get it.

**Mr. Vincent** After listening to yesterday's stormy debate on the resolution submitted by Mr. Smallwood, I felt rather disillusioned, for I had thought that, with only a very small faction of this assembly schooled in the ways of old time politics, the days of personal recriminations and unpleasant invective hurled back and forth with almost atomic energy had well passed into oblivion. I am not I trust departing from the usual and expected courtesies when I say that not only was much of yesterday's discussion pointless, but it was not all conducive to the future wise deliberations of this body. Basically the resolution was sound, the timing definitely right, and as to the attitude of the public to its reception, I affirm with some authority, and a reasonable cross-section of opinion on the northeast coast,

that confederation is fast becoming a live issue.

I divert with your kind permission to make a bow to the gentlemen of the press, over-anxious I believe to know the political leanings of the men who comprise this assembly. They did dig up a left-wing socialist. So now I'll make a definite statement for their benefit. I am not and will not be a confederate until and unless the terms of union are obtained and are found to be in the best interest of Newfoundland as a whole. I say without any apology and with no hesitation that with the facts at present at my command, if a referendum were held tomorrow, I would vote for a retention of Commission of Government. I make no apology for saying that.

It is my opinion that the terms of reference setting up this Convention provide an adequate procedure for full examination of all the issues, and naturally in the light of present-day events, these should include the terms of union with Canada — unlike Mr. Harrington I am not greatly concerned with the legal fabric constituting such procedure, and am well content to leave that to the legal minds actively associated with this assembly. What does concern me as the representative of a district very genuinely interested in the status of our government — a district that does not expect me to be biased in my view or narrow in my approach to the vital problem confronting this Convention, a district which invested me with the power to investigate and explore every issue, is to see that there be no restriction of the free choice of the people or abrogation of their rights to express their franchise.

This resolution is not at all premature; machinery can be set up to arrange for securing the terms and now is the proper and opportune time to set about it. It is of little moment what my political sympathies are, whether I stand a confirmed supporter of the present administration or an avowed hater of old-time politics. It would be foolhardy for me to assert a superior knowledge, to say "I know what's best for my district and for Newfoundland and I will fight confederation or responsible government to the last ditch" — what's more, to my mind it's positively dangerous. The Newfoundland electorate will not be treated with impunity after giving their approval to the setting up of this Convention. They have reserved the right to decide, in the last analysis,