

ness with which we shall serve the great purpose to which we are dedicated. Notwithstanding all the calumnies that have been heaped upon us by those who have judged our work under bias, I make the categorical statement that this Convention has functioned with advantage to the people of this island; and they have no doubt that in the days of your chairmanship it will continue so to function.... It is a moment of high destiny for Newfoundland without equal since the first moment of our achieving responsibility in government. In the crucial days that lie ahead, the people of Newfoundland will be looking to you to guide this Convention to the completion of its task with despatch and with dignity. I offer you my sincere wishes for your success in that endeavour, and my assurance of full co-operation.

There is one other thing that I should like to add. In the manner of his chairmanship, Mr. Bradley can well afford to wait with equanimity for the verdict of history, and undoubtedly the most charitable thing to do about the incident that provoked his resignation is also to wait for the comment of history. The fullness of time has a way of arriving at conclusions into which the emotionalisms that harry in the heat of the day do not enter. And I feel that could he but foresee it, Mr. Bradley would find much cause for satisfaction in the verdict which history will pass upon his chairmanship. For purposes of such record of the incident on Friday, October 10, which may be preserved for the amazement of our posterity, I should like to make the statement that throughout the days of his chairmanship, Mr. Bradley did act with impartiality, honour, and dignity — and that he always had my confidence.

I was a member of the Committee responsible for the report that is now before us. The report makes a summary of what we did finally agree upon as the facts of our national financial position. It could not be expected that all the members of the Committee would agree as to the personal conclusions they would draw from the facts set forth. So I have to say that I cannot subscribe without question to the conclusion Major Cashin intimated in yesterday's debate that he had come to, namely, that the country is self-supporting again. I regret that I have once again to voice in this Convention a disagreement with Major Cashin. I have a high regard for the Major, in particular his consistency of purpose in pursuing

relentlessly the goal of responsible government which he has set before himself. I say that in all sincerity. I have always believed that when the Major spoke he was calling a spade a spade, according to his own lights. It so happens that I have done exactly the same thing. And since our lights have been different, our disagreements have been inevitable. I would that it had been otherwise.

I know that taken all in all, I have been a very disagreeable person at this Convention, and in consequence, I have come to be called everything from a communist to a confederate. A confederate I gather is something that not even the grace of God could raise to the level of the depths of degradation. I do think that attaching ulterior motives to my actions has been rather uncharitable. I fail to see how insisting upon the importance of three square meals a day has made me a communist, any more than insisting upon hearing the terms of confederation has made me a confederate, and in any case, irrespective of what popular misconstructions may have been put upon my views and upon my conduct, I have the personal satisfaction of knowing that I have always acted according to the dictates of my conscience. If that has been improper, I prefer it that way. And so I have come to the making of this statement as a consequence of my examination of our finances and economy. What I have to say will not be well received, for it is not the popular view. I know that again I shall be thought of as seeking to further some dark design that I am supposed to entertain. But a man should not be turned aside from the statement of what he believes to be true because he knows that he may be misrepresented or misconstrued. This statement is as objective an appraisal of our material national position as I am qualified to make.

Our first purpose here is to consider and discuss the changes that have taken place in the financial and economic situation of the island since 1934. Before I pass on to consider such changes, permit me to point out that there is somewhat of a difference between the financial and the economic. It is a difference of which many appear to be unaware, or prefer to ignore. At any rate, there is much confusion of the two, with the financial being taken to indicate that our economy is in good shape. Two examples will serve to illustrate what I mean. Take the matter