

the Convention ready for the question?

Mr. Hollett Before you put that — it is clearly understood, I take it, that such indication by any member, by telegram, letter or otherwise, will be available to the members and to *Hansard* or in some other manner?

Mr. ChairmanThe opinions of all members will be recorded and the opinions of such members who express a preference will also be recorded. Therefore, if I receive from any member any expression of opinion on either or both of these two questions, by letter or by telegram, from and bearing the signatures of any such member, it will be my duty to see that his vote on either or both questions will be in the records of the House.

[The motion carried]

Mr. Higgins May I advance a little further along so that I can have it understood — I intend to communicate with Mr. Brown. I take it, when we finish this debate tomorrow, if the motion is carried there and then, the members will not have to express their preference?

Mr. Chairman There is another point and I want to make this clear. If any member of the House has any objection to it, I want him to state it now. Suppose for argument's sake a poll is taken at 5 o'clock, and 30 minutes after the poll has been taken the letter or cable arrives from Mr. Brown. I intend to record the views expressed by

Mr. Brown whether or not the document containing his expressions has reached me at the time the poll is taken....

Mr. Vardy I take it, the deadline would be the time the Drafting Committee had completed its report.

Mr. Chairman That is my view. Any time between now and when it goes to the Drafting Committee, any letters or telegrams directed to me from any members, like Mr. Brown, who are unavoidably absent through illness or any other circumstances, I will cause their views to be recorded the moment I receive the letter or cable, and the deadline can only be at the moment when you pass the matter over to the Drafting Committee for finalisation.

Mr. Hollett On that, would it not be passed over to the Drafting Committee after voting is taken? Would that allow much time to record his vote?

Mr. ChairmanAs you know, it was agreed that Monday and Tuesday would be devoted to the final order now on the order paper and that means the matter would not go before the Drafting Committee before Wednesday morning. At all events, it is proposed to submit the draft to the Convention for ratification and adoption on Thursday. Any time up to next Thursday, before it comes up for ratification, anything I receive definitely will be recorded.

[The Convention adjourned]

January 22, 1948

Motion to recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the wishes of the People of Newfoundland be ascertained as to whether it is their desire that Responsible Government be restored or Commission of Government be continued

Mr. Vincent Yesterday I moved the adjournment of the debate with the hope of getting precedence to the floor; since then I have been told that there are quite a few members who wish to speak on this motion and I may say that I propose to finish my address within 20 minutes.

As the Convention fast draws to its long-expected end, its conduct has indeed become commendable; so much so that one of my delegate friends yesterday called it the glad-handers club; and in speaking to the motion certain members have even waxed poetical. My respected and close personal friend, Mr. Hickman, at the con-

clusion of a very fine address a few days ago, invoked in his usual masterful way the poetical phraseology of our national ode. Mr. Vardy, my associate from Trinity North, content with nothing less than the original, wrote a poem which he quoted in support of his arguments, and seriously, Mr. Chairman, our poet of the year, your friend and mine, delegate Ike Newell,¹ had better look to his laurels or Mr. Vardy with his free verse may supplant him — that verse was entirely free, I am sure, Mr. Vardy!

Now, as the Convention is about to conclude its findings and make its recommendations; as

¹Isaac Newell's poem, "Lines for An Anniversary 1497-1947" won the O'Leary Newfoundland Poetry Award in 1947.