

the last man to challenge you on any point of parliamentary procedure, any point of parliamentary practice; and I think that in the three or four months you have been here you have mastered that as you had already mastered the intricacies and subtleties of court procedure, tradition and practice. I love a worker. You are a prodigious worker, and you have shown here how skillful you are, and how you can adapt yourself to a new situation, entirely new. They say, sir, that the real test of intelligence is the ability of a man to meet and cope with a new situation, and you met and coped with what for you was a new situation, to preside over a gang like this — Major Cashin and myself, and Mr. Hollett here behind me, and Mr. Fudge. Why, sir, someone who could come in and keep us from each other's throats for the past three months should get a gold medal, and I agree that you have done that. You have been completely impartial and fair to everyone in the Convention, and I just want to go on record to that effect.

**Mr. Hollett** Mr. Chairman, I would like very much to associate myself with this motion that has been proposed by Mr. Higgins, and seconded by the "father of this House". That, sir, is an honour to you, to have such a motion seconded by a man with the reputation and characteristics of the Hon. R. B. Job. Now as Mr. Smallwood has claimed first place with regard to the many annoyances that have been caused you in your onerous position, I think I could claim second place at any rate. I like the wording of the motion. Mr. Higgins mentioned the "able and courteous manner in which you have performed your duties". He also mentioned the word "impartial", and that to my mind has been the reason why you have been so successful in finishing up the work which was passed over to you. If I were to go on oath today, sir, and be asked what your particular political leanings were, I would have to answer frankly and truthfully, "I do not know", and for any man in this present day in Newfoundland to be able to cover up so well as you have done in this particular position is a recommendation which will go down with you to your dying day. I do most heartily agree with the mover and seconder, and with the expression made by my friend Mr. Smallwood, and I sincerely hope, sir, that the work of this Convention, in the end, will justify our having such a fair, courteous and impartial Chairman.

**Mr. Vardy** It must be a grand feeling to hear such words of praise about oneself while you are still living. Now I can only just in a very brief way add my own support to the resolution, and those to follow as well. I know that many times we have felt like jumping right after each other's throats. I never felt more like it in my life than Wednesday night, but I decided that discretion was the better part of valour, but I have had nothing but admiration for you, even when you tried to chastise a recalcitrant member. I wish to associate myself with the motion.

**Mr. Harrington** I don't propose to carry on this debate very long. The previous speakers have already expressed the feeling very well, but most of them are older than me, and, on behalf of the younger members, I would like to associate myself with this motion and with the others on the line.

*[The motion carried]*

**Mr. Chairman** In expressing to you my deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all your kindness to me, particularly here this evening I want to express ... my gratitude and thanks, which began with my induction during an afternoon in October last. Now at that time, if I recall correctly, I made two statements, one of which was that the extent to which I would be successful in the proper discharge of my duties would in the last analysis depend on the sympathy and co-operation which I received from the members of this House. Therefore, if I have had any success in the proper discharge of my duties, it has only been made possible by the kindness and sympathy and co-operation to which I referred, so that the credit for my success must inevitably fall upon your shoulders.

At that time I also stated that I made no pretence to infallibility. I am quite sure that you had ample and adequate illustration of that during the time that has intervened since I first began; but the thing I like to think about most, and for which I perhaps may be most proud, is the fact that while undoubtedly on occasions in the stress and heat of the moment, when I was called upon to make rulings, I ruled erroneously, I think the greatest kindness and courtesy, and the greatest compliment that has been paid me, is the fact that there has not been a single appeal from any ruling that I made against any member of the House since I accepted the chairmanship of the National