

did not want any help from England, but we did want to find out the position. Now we know where we stand and can act accordingly. I do not know if there is going to be any more debate on the report, but for me, the position is extremely clear. I am not trying to stifle debate but in view of the fact that we have to try and finish the other reports, I suggest we cut the debate as short as possible.

**Mr. Fudge** Before I proceed with my few remarks I would like to refer to what Mr. Smallwood said, that the British government is not prepared to discuss base deals with us. The British government is prepared to leave that matter in the hands of Newfoundlanders — provided, however, they get their own government; then they will discuss the matter with us. As far as this self-supporting business is concerned, it is a nigger in the woodpile. Who is self-supporting? Is Great Britain self-supporting? Is Canada self-supporting? Not at all! Why put the burden on top of us, gentlemen?.... We are the only people who pay cash for democracy; the rest can have it charged.

As a member of the delegation I feel that I am called upon to add my comments to those which you have already heard. I fully endorse the opinions expressed by Major Cashin and Mr. Crosbie. I, like them, have come back from our visit keenly disappointed with the results obtained, and the general tenor of our reception. I feel as if I had been on some kind of a wild goose chase. On the plane which brought us back to this country, we might have marked the words: "Returned Empty."

During my years as a representative of labour unions, I have had the experience of being a member of many delegations and sitting in at meetings with many official bodies, both governmental and otherwise. But in all such cases I came away from such meetings knowing that matters had been discussed openly and frankly, and in a common sense manner. But that was not my experience on this delegation, for I found little of common sense and less of frankness. I had the new experience of seeing certain persons present whispering into the Chairman's ear. I saw people pulling other people's coat-tails, and further whispering take place. It made me wonder sometimes where I was. Was this a meeting with representatives of the British government? Or

was it some underground conspiracy, planning some illegal movement?

Like Major Cashin, I was witness to the manner in which the Chairman, Lord Addison, acted. I saw the great exhibition which he gave us as how not to answer a question, and how to avoid an issue. The noble lord had three stock answers, and when one failed he used the others. He said either that our question was one which we could not discuss as it was only in the power of the government to do so; or he said that the matter was already under consideration by the Commission; and when all else failed, and he was apparently stuck for an answer, he said he would make a note of what we said. I am prepared to believe that if the Chairman had been asked if we could have Bell Island towed to the mainland, he would reply that the Commission of Government had it under consideration.

Some people in this country were somewhat astonished by the reports of the meetings of the delegation which appeared in the English papers, condemning the treatment we received. But having been on the inside I can say that the reports were what the old politicians used to call "critically correct." We brought home nothing from this trip, and the simple reason is that we were given nothing we could bring home. But it is often said that good sometimes comes out of evil. And from this angle I can say that we did bring something home, and that was the lesson that we can expect nothing from any outside sources that will be of any assistance to us in our future. It taught me that if Newfoundland is to get anywhere, if she is to make any progress, she must go ahead under her own steam and with her own native sons at the wheel.

As a representative of the common man, as one whose adult life has been spent in the ranks of the workers, I have always had the interests of my fellow workers in mind. My politics are the politics of the common man. I know that if labour goes down to defeat, I must go with it. I know that if labour prospers, I prosper. And so it is that when I regard the position of Newfoundland today, I look at it from the attitude of the working man. In the present instance I tell the worker of this country that it is no use looking to Canada or the United Kingdom or anywhere else for his future. He must, and I must, and we all must, look to ourselves. There is an old saying that "every