

school. Now let us ask ourselves some questions. We have had five years, ten years, 50 years without representative government, what then? Is the imperial government so naive that a group of citizens is going to grow up in Newfoundland that are going to jump in and after 14 years under the dictates of a dictatorship, be Sir Robert Bonds, Gladstones and Lloyd Georges? Even those Commissioners took some of those politicians they blackened and who, if the people had to elect, would not have elected them. What in heaven's name was going to happen when this rest period was over? I suppose the smiling lord envisaged such a good government, that when the period was up we would be all saints, and after this 14 year period we would automatically, like a child, copy our elders. But what have we had? I'll admit the Commission of Government has done some good — Napoleon did that, so did Hitler — and I want every red-blooded Newfoundlander to weigh it up. Did the bad outweigh the good, or vice versa? I am the last one in Newfoundland to pat our old politicians on the back. Parliamentary procedure won't allow me to say what I thought about them. A lot was good according to their time and place. They did a lot with a little. That you got to hand to them, but as fit to govern, no, and in the United States and Canada today the same old game is going on. I have seen some juicy things that would open your eyes, and things in Britain that were not so hot. There was the little story of our bonds, and this National Convention would not be held today if the Swedes had been as foolish as other governments. The world would be likely singing "Deutschland Uber Alles". You know there is no Iron Curtain for a sailor, he gets inside it. Now come back home, we suffered from too much selfishness, that both in the high and low. In fact to put it mildly we got the type of government we deserved, and I believe the Commission of Government has done some good in that they have taught us a lesson. But did we get a rest from politics? Although none of those men had to face the electorate, yet we find public wharves built where there were only two boats, while other wharves, one costing \$80,000, went into discard. It cost \$1 million to build a railroad from Whitbourne to Heart's Content under those politicians playing dirty politics, yet it cost \$223,000 to build a road on the railroad bed and they have no road

there yet. I was told in England one of the finest rows in Parliament was because up to that time, 1939, every mile of road in Newfoundland had cost \$20,000 for labour and \$10,000 for machinery. They asked if it was golden roads, so my informant told me. We did not find any great amount of machinery on the Transportation Committee. We don't know how this works. I don't.... There isn't anybody to question it and after it's done there is no questioning it.

The Department of Natural Resources recently sold two loads of herring, one 278,000 pounds, the other 268,000 pounds, to a Canadian fishing firm, to catch fish in competition with us, with bait from bait depots built and kept up with Newfoundland taxpayers' money; and it's no use for the department to say they made a profit, because you could not catch fish enough to pay for the bait when you come to consider what it costs to construct and run a bait depot — frenzied finance!

I have before me two documents — one a report on Public Health and Welfare, which never was debated because we have another which is *sub judice*. I don't know what this hambone Latin is, but it looks *sub juicy* to me. We were promised when we took it that there was an investigation on and that we, in time, would hear all about it. Well, it is dated March, 1946. Two years is long enough to have something like this cleared up. I cannot recommend this form of government to the people. There are all sorts of rumours out about it running anywhere from \$100,000 to \$1 million adrift. The Auditor General says a final and definite opinion cannot be recorded by him, as to the causes of errors and omissions without investigating matters which are outside his proper functions. The Auditor General says it is his duty to inform the Commission of Government that in his view the time has come for an enquiry to be made. Well, we were informed an enquiry was going to be made and we would know the outcome of it, but that's as far as it has gone. I think myself it's unfair for this stuff to be around charging people. If an investigation has been held we should be told about it, the innocent cleared, the guilty punished — or the Auditor General told he was getting off a lot of hot air. It's not possible that any graft is going on in a government the country believes is clear of those things — that could only happen under crooked