all. The question is, when it closes should it be dissolved for all time or should it be prorogued? It seems very desirable from a number of standpoints, that when His Excellency comes to close the Convention, he should prorogue and not dissolve it, because, as pointed out, it may become necessary for the British government to come back to us and ask for information or advice on some point connected with the referendum. Well, if we are dissolved next week, the British government cannot come back to us — we will not be in existence, so that I think that is a matter which you, as Chairman, might take up if you have not already done it. I am sure you have already given the matter some thought, because I know it was in my mind even before it happened. There is not a word in the act about dissolving the Convention. We can go home, but we are still a Convention until we are dissolved. Mr. Chairman No, I can't accept that posi-

Mr. Smallwood We can make our recommendations and go home. I am not a lawyer, but it seems to me that the Convention Act which created us leaves us in existence and does not provide for our dissolution. It only provides for the discharge of our duty. Once we have discharged that duty are we not still in existence as a Convention until we are dissolved by statute or by the Governor's proclamation? It is certainly a matter to think over.

Mr. Chairman The reply to Mr. Cashin, and I think my learned friends Mr. Higgins and Mr. Hollett will bear me out in this, in going though the transcript of the London proceedings I did not notice where Lord Addison ... did proceed on the presupposition that this Convention would be available for him to refer back any questions which may occur to him during the hiatus between the making of the recommendations and the holding of the referendum. My own opinion, for what it is worth, is that under the National Convention Act this Convention is brought to an end in either of two ways: either by repealing the legislation, the National Convention Act, or by this Convention completing its work as set forth in the prescribed act. In other words, that this Convention would cease to exist after the time it had made its recommendations. With these opinions in mind, I promptly took the matter up with His Excellency the Governor, and my respectful submission to him was that if my interpretation of the section was correct, then I was at a great loss to understand how Lord Addison proposed to refer back, to a nonexistent body, questions which would arise between its dissolution and the holding of the referendum, if my contention was that this Convention would come to an end instantly when the recommendations were made.

My opinion is that this Convention is in substitution of a royal commission, and if a royal commission is set up to do a certain job, certainly it comes to an end after that job has been performed. Therefore, under the present state of the legislation constituting the Convention, the Governor has no discretion as to whether the house will be prorogued or formally dissolved.

I think that if the Convention is to be prorogued or dissolved an amendment to the act is essential. Therefore, if it is the desire of members, I will contact the Hon. Mr. Walsh, who is now the Acting Chairman of the Commission of Government, and I will place your views before him, first for the purpose of determining whether or not he agrees with my interpretation of the act, and if not, whether or not he is prepared to have the necessary legislation put into effect to have the Convention dissolved, and I will pass his report back to the house.

Mr. Bradley I am rather inclined to agree. This Convention was brought into existence by statute, and the first observation I would like to make is that there is no such thing as prorogation of this Convention. It is not a legislature in any sense of the word, and the Governor has no more power to prorogue it than I have. Now when it was brought into existence by statute it was given certain powers - to investigate and make recommendations to the British government. Just when it will have made all its recommendations I don't know. I understand that, within the next ten days or so, the intention of the Convention is to make certain recommendations to the British government with reference to forms of future government in this country, but I have no assurance that by the date named all the recommendations which the Convention will want to make will have then been made. If not, it seems to me that the Convention will still have a further function, and consequently will be legally in existence, sir, even if its functions have been