

the Province of Manitoba the legislature is not enamoured with the idea of taking the property from the son, but circumstances force them to do it. That is what you have to keep in mind. If it is going to be done, how is it going to be done?.... The only precedent we have to follow is the precedent of the nine provinces.

Mr. Butt Mr. Bailey's point is that no matter what form of government there is in the nine provinces, you must find the money for whatever services you have, and I agree with him. What I would like to know is this, if not *after* but *before* a debate on those acts and regulations, would it be not possible to have copies for members so that I, at least, could follow the debate intelligently?

Mr. Chairman The position is that all the documents on the application of the member for Grand Falls have been requested and we are expecting they will be forthcoming shortly. The request was made more than a week ago. We must assume they will be forthcoming before the debate is terminated. I can have another check made to find out if we can get any definite idea when the documents will be made available.

Mr. Butt You will appreciate the difficulty of trying to follow a debate on acts and regulations — it is rather unfair. You cannot take an intelligent part in the debate, unless you have read them....

Mr. Jackman I wonder if it would be possible to find out the number of homes in the Province of Nova Scotia in the past five years on which the government has this lien?

Mr. Hillier Until we receive the necessary literature to enable us to more intelligently follow the debate on this section, would it not be better to defer this part of the debate?

Mr. Chairman We are in a tentative stage at the moment, much like the second reading of a bill. I know that members are at a disadvantage when references are made to acts and regulations, by not having copies before them; but since a request for this information has been forwarded ... it may be just as well to go along as best we can. Every member has the right to revert back to any clause which has been dealt with.... If you were going to be deprived of the opportunity of studying these acts before we terminated, I would consider your point well taken. In view of the fact that the information will be forthcoming, if it meets with your approval, we could go along....

Mr. Crosbie We should have copies before or at the time Mr. Smallwood reads them.

Mr. Smallwood Speaking from memory, I do not know that I have any or many further documents that are not already in the Black Books. I doubt if I have.

Mr. Crosbie If they are in the Black Books, why not read from the Black Books?

Mr. Smallwood I am not allowed to, except under certain conditions.

Mr. Chairman In conformity with the rules of procedure, I had to rule that Mr. Smallwood was not to revert to the Black Books unless his interpretation of any question was challenged, and it became necessary for him to revert to the Black Books in order to get independent corroboration of the statement.

Mr. Crosbie What is the difference in reading a memorandum that he took out of the Black Books, and reading from the Black Books?

Mr. Smallwood It appears I am the only member of the National Convention who is not permitted to read the Black Books aloud, except upon conditions laid down; any other member may read it aloud except the one piloting the report through and he can do it only if somebody questions him.

Mr. Chairman That is the position.

Mr. Smallwood I have never been lacking in ingenuity. I can always find a way to read what is in the Black Books if there is any point in it.

Mr. Miller Was not that procedure suggested by Mr. Smallwood himself?

Mr. Chairman That was my understanding.... Before we went into committee of the whole the point was raised by Mr. Higgins as to what mode of procedure was going to be employed. To reduce the matter to the simplest framework, it was ultimately agreed that Mr. Smallwood would read the section, and give the interpretation of the section, but that he was not to revert to the Black Books unless any statement that he made was questioned or challenged and the answer was to be found in the Black Books. That may be unfair to Mr. Smallwood; it may be cramping his style; it may be coming between him and the people outside, but I am like Pontius Pilate, I say the responsibility is the Convention's and not mine.... Mr. Smallwood now finds himself in the comparatively unfair position where he cannot, unlike all the rest of the members, revert to the