

al debt is less than \$150 per head. What is the national debt of Canada? It is \$1,200 per head. You bring up the agreement of 51 years ago — if they were prepared to settle on that it means \$300 million for the Canadian government to hand over to Newfoundland. But, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to sit down here and be a party to what I feel in my soul is a policy to sell out this country to Canada. I lived in Canada longer than any man in this House, and I like Canada, but I love Newfoundland. I know what happened in the Canadian provinces, in the eastern provinces. I have also lived in British Columbia. I heard Mr. Smallwood here yesterday state that our people were 50 years behind the times. I think our friend Mr. Brown brought him up on that. I have been on Queen Charlotte Islands, and I would like to bring Mr. Smallwood there and show him conditions, and also to the city of Montreal and let him look at the conditions that exist there, and then come back and make a comparison with our people. I never heard of any Newfoundlander who would come in here and blacken his people as this gentleman did. I want to say, as a man who went over in 1914 and did my bit at that time — I did not see him over there though! ...

Mr. Smallwood I was 14 years old.

Mr. Cashin How old are you now?

Mr. Smallwood I am 46.

Mr. Chairman I told you, Major Cashin, not to indulge in personalities. You will kindly refrain from indulging in personalities. I don't want it to happen again.

Mr. Cashin I have stated that there is an ulterior motive behind this whole motion. I grant you that the gentlemen who are supporting it don't realise it. I believe that the Commission of Government, directly or indirectly, and the Dominions Office, are behind it. Why do I make that statement? On the 18th of September of this year I gave a short talk in this House, and was severely criticised by some people. In that talk I made a short quotation taken from a speech delivered in the British House of Commons by Prime Minister Attlee: "It is important that a series of reconstruction measures which the Commission of Government are planning to introduce should proceed without interruption, and these will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. The Commission have a full programme to meet during the next two or three years." What is the interpretation to be placed on

these remarks?.... I would analyse it like this, that Mr. Attlee, when he made that talk on December 11 last, stated that we are going to hold Commission of Government in Newfoundland for two or three years because they have a definite program which has got to go forward without interruption. If that is true, what are we doing here? I have asked for a statement by someone who knows what they mean by that, and I think I am entitled to an answer. I got a letter from the Secretary to this effect: "With reference to your question submitted to the Information Committee to be submitted to Mr. Attlee and the House of Commons, I am directed by the Information Committee to inform you that it needs further consideration, and that it would be reviewed at a later date". Reviewed by whom — the Information Committee? That question should have gone to the government, and from there to the Dominions Office and back here. It has been held up by the Information Committee, and they are going to review it later. It was merely a question asking for an explanation, and it has not been explained....

If my construction is right ... and if this Commission of Government is going to stay here for two or three years, what are we doing here wasting \$800 or \$1,000 a day?.... If I can get a seconder I am going to move that this Convention adjourn until such time as that question is properly answered. Someone may say that I am holding up the progress of the Convention. No, I am trying to get that important question explained to Newfoundland, whether it is a fact that we are going to have Commission of Government regardless of whether or not this Convention votes for confederation. What is the three year programme of work referred to, and does this mean that the Commission of Government are going to be retained in office until such programme is carried out? I don't think anyone can say that's not a fair question.... Surely we are entitled, before we take these steps of sending a delegation off on a wild goose chase, to know where we stand....

It's no use for us to discuss responsible government, or confederation or even annexation to the United States.... Mr. Chairman, if I can get a seconder to that motion I will take my seat.

Mr. Brown I will second the motion.

Mr. Smallwood Will that motion be put in writ-