

been having public sessions we would not have found out the things we did. I believe each and every one in this House should forget all differences and get this country back to the people to whom it belongs. We are here because our people love this country. Why should they give away the assets our forebears fought so hard to get? The Commission government intends to spend that \$30 million surplus before they get out. Then they will turn the government over to us. We waited too long. How much longer are we going to put up with it? We are not going to get anything without fighting for it. The average Briton does not understand anything but a fight. I risked my life for this country and I would do it again.

**Mr. Vincent** However there is no need to elaborate on why this motion should, and doubtless will command the unanimous approval of this House. To me it would be most extraordinary indeed should a dissenting voice be heard. I make no apologies for saying that any delegates raising their voice against this should be deemed unpatriotic indeed. Let's back the resolution with concerted action, and do it right away.

**Mr. Higgins** I don't think there will be any notice taken of the motion, but to be critically correct I think that the motion will have to be amended, and for that reason I move the following amendment: that the word "assets" be deleted and the following words substituted: "any of the natural resources or liquid assets of Newfoundland at present under the control of the Commission of Government, other than already contracted for, either in Newfoundland or Labrador". Otherwise it will mean that Highroads cannot even sell a tractor. The waterpower situation is already covered by one of the acts in 1938 and 1944, giving the Labrador Mining and Exploration Company full power to acquire what waterpower they require as soon as mining leases are taken out by them. We have no control over that. That's why I move that amendment.

**Mr. Smallwood** I would second that if Mr. Higgins would assure me that they can't pay their bills!

**Mr. Cashin** Does that mean rum at the Controllers?

**Mr. Smallwood** It is not that kind of liquid that Mr. Higgins is dealing with. Does that mean that

they could not pay their bills?

**Mr. Higgins** We will say "their liquid assets other than current". I think the whole lot of it is really a lot of nonsense. I am sure there won't be any notice taken of it.

**Mr. Chairman** That's a little bit complicated, and I think you had better put that in writing and submit it to the clerk, please.

*[The Convention agreed to accept the proposed change to the motion without debate]*

**Mr. Jackman** Five years ago I wrote a letter to the *Daily News*. In the final paragraph I pointed out that since the beginning of Commission government we, the people of Newfoundland, stood by silently and had our possessions and our assets given to outsiders without having any voice in the matter whatever. I congratulate Mr. Crosbie; I am strongly in favour of this motion, and will do anything I can to see that the motion will have teeth in it. I realise that we as a Convention are not in a position to demand the Commission of Government do anything, but we have an opportunity if we wish to take it on ourselves, that each delegate when he goes back to his district should call a public meeting throughout the whole country to deal with Mr. Crosbie's motion from a public standpoint, and, while the Dominions Office is inclined practically at all times to ignore things, I think some public agitation at least may open their eyes....

**Mr. Harrington** I would like to take up where Mr. Bailey left off.... I certainly agree with him. I don't think that Mr. Bailey was being radical in what he said, neither do I think that Mr. Hollett is a defeatist, but a realist. However I have my doubts. I think this motion may do something. The stronger we make it the more chance we have of doing something. Mr. Bailey made a little excursion into our history, a matter which Mr. Bailey and I have made numerous excursions into the past few years. When people say, "That's 50 or 100 years ago, forget that", well the same thing is happening today, and what are we going to do about it? I want to support Mr. Bailey's stand that it is time for fighting, and if this is the beginning of the fight, I am all for it.

*[The motion as amended carried unanimously, and the Convention adjourned]*