

March 10, 1947

Mr. Chairman Orders of the day. Mr. Hollett to give notice that he will on tomorrow move the adoption of the following detailed statement of the questions to be submitted to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom as set out in the resolution of Mr. Hollett passed on February 28, 1947....¹

[At Mr. Hollett's request, the Convention agreed to proceed with discussion of the motion immediately]

Mr. Hollett Mr. Chairman, the motion before the House this afternoon arises out of the final paragraph in the motion made by me on the 28th day of February, 1947.... These matters had to be considered by the Steering Committee before being submitted to the Convention. We have had several meetings, and the result is the motion now before this House. I would like to draw attention to a slight difference between the matters raised by my previous motion and the one now before this House. The only items previously mentioned were:

1. National debt;
2. Military, naval and air bases in this country;
3. Gander airport;
4. Interest-free loans;
5. Any matters relating to the future economic position of Newfoundland.

The motion today contains seven items, whereas the original motion contained only five:

1. The public debt;
2. The interest-free loans;
3. Development loans;
4. The position arising out of the various base deals;
5. The financing and control of Newfoundland airports;
6. Trade and tariffs;
7. Any other matters relative to Newfoundland affairs which the delegation may raise and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom be willing to discuss.

Two sections have been added, namely development loans and trade and tariffs. There is no discrepancy between this motion today and the original motion, in that section five of the original motion reads: "Any matters relating to

the future economic position of Newfoundland."

....

This really is not my motion. It is the motion of the Steering Committee, but I was asked by the Chairman to bring the matter before you as it arose out of a motion which came before you on the 28th, and which was unanimously passed. May I refer you back again to the last clause of the original motion, which states "that the Steering Committee be requested to prepare a detailed statement". I think the Committee will agree that it would have been very difficult to make such a detailed statement....

I feel, and I think the Steering Committee agrees, that one reason why we did not detail these various headings is probably this: that there are questions in these various headings here which concern only this Convention and His Majesty's Government in England. At the moment they concern no other country. They do, I grant you, concern the people of this country, whom we represent, but I am quite sure that the people of this country do not want us to disclose to the world at large the various questions that will have to be asked under the various headings in the motion before you. There will be pertinent questions asked His Majesty's Government by any delegation that may proceed from here ... and I am sure that every member will agree that the very questions which we are to put to His Majesty's Government should not be public to the world at large at the present time. The answers to these questions which the delegation will bring back will, in due course, be published to the people of this country....

I make these explanations so that you may not be under any misapprehension, and think that the Steering Committee, or myself, in any way attempted to keep from you the detailed questions which are mentioned in the original motion, and which, as I may point out to you, arise out of the report of the committee which interviewed the Commission of Government here in Newfoundland.² I hope and trust that you will take that explanation in good faith. If there are any questions which you would like to present to us you will have an opportunity now. Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that these questions be sub-

¹Above, p. 337.

²Volume II:446.