

show the war savings certificates as part of our national debt.

If we turn to page 102 of the Finance Report we find that our gross national debt amounts to \$83,993,047. The first amount of \$3.5 million coming due in 1950 and 1952 has been taken care of by the deduction from our interest-free loans of \$3,232,000 which is invested at 2.5% and is sufficient with accumulated interest to take care of these two issues as they fall due. The second amount the Dominions Office agreed to cancel when the London delegation discussed Newfoundland affairs with the United Kingdom representatives in May last. \$1,600,000 or \$1,700,000 against our sterling indebtedness of approximately \$72 million. There is a sinking fund of \$8,342,000, which leaves this amount of sterling debt at approximately \$64.25 million. Now our local debt in bond issues and war savings certificates is approximately \$7 million. Against this latter amount there is a sinking fund of \$800,000, thus reducing our local debt to \$6.25 million. If we add this we have a debt of \$70.75 million. Against this we have cash and other securities, including war savings certificates, debentures from the St. John's Housing Corporation, advances paid on account of the United Kingdom government and loans to private corporations of an amount in round figures of not less than \$39 million. If we deduct this amount then from our total national debt we find that our net national debt on October 1, 1947, amounted to approximately \$32 million.

This, Mr. Chairman, was practically the exact position of the finances of Newfoundland on October 1, 1947. These figures are critically correct. In our Economic Report we stated that we had \$35 million approximately in liquid assets to the credit of the country. The above statement shows the assets accumulated since 1940-41, to the amount of \$39 million or possibly \$40 million. The question of the advances to the Housing Corporation may be raised. Someone may say they are not worth the paper they are written on. That depression has been used in here before, but even if you did take that into account — \$4 million deducted from that — and give all the people their houses for nothing, we still have \$35 million left to the credit of the country.... When Mr. Smallwood makes the statement that the

figures contained in the Financial Report and the Economic Report are incorrect, he suggests the dilemma of Tennyson's grandmother, which I read about the other day in an English magazine, and it says that a lie which is all a lie may be met with and fought, but a lie which is part the truth is a harder matter to fight.

Mr. Chairman, there is an adage to the effect that fools rush in where angels fear to tread...

Mr. Smallwood Hear, hear!

Mr. Cashin And this was strongly brought to my mind. Now, Mr. Chairman, if we want to have any kind of decency in this place...

Mr. Chairman And we are going to, and therefore I want to make it clear now that Major Cashin is not going to be interrupted by any other speaker unless and until he rises to a point of order or a point of privilege.

Mr. Cashin I am not referring to that at all. I have a very strong suspicion that the galleries have been fixed up in the past two or three days.

Mr. Chairman I am not interested in the galleries. I am charged with the maintenance of order here. If the galleries are biased and interfere with me, I am going to have the galleries cleared.

Mr. Cashin This was brought to my mind recently when I listened to the member from Bonavista Centre go into his song and dance. He is our prize jumper in the dark, and when someone throws the light of information on him he is usually up to his neck in a bog of misunderstanding. This is the subject of our finances, and he bites off more than he can chew on our sinking fund. After listening to his hysterical oration I wonder whether he had read our reports at all. If he read the report he did not understand it, and that would account for his not knowing what he is talking about. I have to try and dispel some of the fogs in which this delegate is wandering and send him back on the road. I do this in the hope that it will save me the trouble of doing it later on.

Mr. Chairman, nearly a year ago I was informed by our finance department that the total of our interest-free loans amounted to \$12.3 million. They were given, not at the request of the United Kingdom government, but out of the big-heartedness of the local Commissioners, who decided to be generous with other people's money.... It is my firm conviction that it is doubt-