

self-supporting. I would like to take these gentlemen to some of the little outports, to the little fishing villages to see how the fisherman and his family lives. Even in these so-called prosperous times he and his family have half enough to eat, half enough to wear, and they may have a tight roof over their heads and they may not. Are we, this National Convention, sent here by these very people who are at this moment suffering untold hardships, are we going to deny them the facts concerning confederation, or anything else for that matter? If I did such a thing I would consider myself a traitor to the cause I have taken up. If I became a party to such a dishonourable act, could I in all sincerity still stand on my feet and call myself a true Newfoundlander? I think not. At this time we have to be realistic, we have to face the facts, however distasteful they may appear. We have to acquit ourselves like men, and be strong; we must not allow our own petty desires and selfish interests to have an overriding influence over our better judgement.

I am not a politician, and I don't know that I have any desire to be. But I do say I have the interest of this country really and truly at heart; not from any selfish motives, but from an intense desire to see that this land of ours has a fighting chance, that our people have a chance to live decent lives. And in that spirit, I support the motion now before the Chair.

**Mr. Fogwill** Mr. Chairman, I am in accord with the principle embodied in this resolution although I am not in accord with the method, that of sending a delegation to Ottawa. What could a delegation possibly accomplish except to confer with the government officials of that country? Whatever is done will have to be reduced to writing and presented to this Convention. Could not the terms of confederation be ascertained in another way? Is it not possible for this Convention to find out those terms by transmitting its enquiry to the Canadian government through the regular diplomatic channels which exist between the governments of both countries? If that is possible then, why send a delegation at all?

As regards the time of ascertaining the terms, in my opinion it does not matter whether those terms arrive now or in January. We have the ruling of the Chair that it is within the scope of this Convention to find out those terms. But we

have yet to decide whether confederation could be a recommendation of this Convention or not. So it really does not matter when we receive them, the question can be laid aside until we are ready to deal with any form of government which may be introduced in this assembly.

I did not come here with a definite opinion in support of any particular form of government. But I did come here with the opinion that Commission of Government must go and an elected government be restored; we should never have lost the rights of responsible government. Before I close I would like to make an observation. Since I sat in this House I have not said very much, but a couple of weeks ago I did object to some words which were embodied in a report that was presented here, and for my objection I was associated with radicalism by someone who probably does not know the meaning of the word "radical". I was born and reared in Newfoundland and have lived all my life in the City of St. John's, and during that time I have worked for the period of 29 years, and in that 29 years I have been fortunate to enjoy six weeks vacation with pay. If that is a definition of a radical then I should be proud to be a radical, and I would think that there are many more people of the same category in this country who would think in the same terms as I.

In conclusion, and I hope I am right in saying this, I believe the question of federating with the Dominion of Canada is a question that must be left to a duly elected government of this country, and they should have a clear mandate from the people of Newfoundland before any steps are taken to implement any terms of union that may be considered.

**Mr. Jones** Mr. Chairman, in the opening days of this Convention when the Chadwick-Jones report was up for discussion, I said that all forms of government should be set aside until the desired facts had been collected and examined. I am sorry that suggestion has not been adhered to. I saw then, as some of us see now, that it was bad policy to introduce a discussion on the different forms of government before the facts had been ascertained. At the present time we know very little of the economic conditions of this country, and I think it is a mistake to send a delegation to Ottawa from this Convention until we know its financial condition. I would not wish to be one of