

February 3, 1947

Mr. Chairman Orders of the day. Notice of motion. Mr. Higgins to give notice that on tomorrow he will move the following amendments to the rules of procedure of the Convention....¹

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, the proposed amendment is for the purpose of bringing the rules of procedure into line with the amended act with respect to the National Convention. As you know, when the present Chairman was appointed, the act had to be amended. It gives the Chairman his right to vote, but does not confer on him any second or casting vote as Chairman. The proposed amendment gives the Chairman of the Convention his right to vote. It's merely to regularise the rules of procedure in accordance with the amended act.

Mr. Job Mr. Chairman, I wish to give notice of motion. I hereby give notice that I will, on tomorrow, move the following resolution:

Whereas it is the duty of this National Convention to ascertain all important facts bearing upon the financial and economic position of this country, and upon all possible and suitable forms of government to be laid before the people:

Be it therefore resolved that it is essential that this Convention take immediate steps to ascertain

1. What steps, if any, can be taken for establishing improved economic or fiscal relationships between the United States of America and Newfoundland, particularly bearing in mind the present occupation of certain Newfoundland territory by the said United States of America, and the fact that free entry is accorded to the United States for its importation into Newfoundland;

2. What financial and fiscal relationships could be expected between the Government of the United Kingdom and Newfoundland

(1) Under a continuation of Commission government in its present form,

(2) Under a revised form of Commission government with elected representatives thereon,

(3) Under responsible government in approximately its previous form,

(4) Under any other suitable form of government.

3. What would be a fair and equitable basis for federal union of the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, or what other fiscal, political or economic arrangements may be possible.

Be it further resolved that His Excellency the Governor in Commission be informed that this National Convention desires to appoint a committee of its members to confer with His Excellency the Governor in Commission on ways and means of determining the matters herein before enumerated, and that in the event of His Excellency the Governor in Commission being agreeable to conferring with such a committee, the Chairman of this Convention in consultation with the Steering Committee shall thereupon select a delegation of members of this Convention which, with the Chairman of the Convention, shall constitute the committee referred to in this resolution and which shall report to this Convention the results of their conferences before being in any way committed to the despatch of any delegation outside of Newfoundland.

Report of the Transportation and Communications Committee:² Committee of the Whole

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, the only additional information that this Committee has to bring before the committee of the whole today is the supplementary report on Gander,³ consisting of a verbatim shorthand account of the interview held with the Commissioner of Public Utilities,

Mr. Neill, by a Committee appointed by the Convention, and I think perhaps that the best thing would be to ask the Secretary to read the verbatim account of that interview.

[The Secretary read the verbatim report]

Mr. Cashin Mr. Chairman, some of my friends

¹Volume II:53.

²Volume II:75.

³Volume II:79.