

agreed in principle as legal men as to the interpretation to be placed upon the act ... and while we were in tentative agreement, he wanted some time to think it over. I sprung it on him out of the clouds, so to speak. It was agreed that I would send him a transcript of that particular part of the proceedings, which I have done. Undoubtedly we will get a final opinion on the matter within a day or so. The motion is:

Motion to recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the wishes of the People of Newfoundland be ascertained as to whether it is their desire that Responsible Government be restored or Commission of Government be continued

Mr. Fogwill Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I do not intend to take up much time in speaking to this resolution. At the onset I wish to make it clear that I am in support of it, particularly that part relating to the restoration of responsible government. I feel that in responsible government we have the best opportunity for the future. It is because I am not less interested than you are in the future of our country that I feel confident in justifying that statement. Now, sir, before all else, I think we must recognise that we are entering a new era. Things perhaps will never again be just as they were. We are moving out of old conditions and old social and economic surroundings. We are at the crossroads. Let us accept that as a fact, as simply and as categorically as we can, and let us build our house of the future accordingly. It is my conviction that the Newfoundland people are about to face a second great test of their powers of survival as a separate unit in the British Commonwealth. We have to be careful and see to it that we are not saddled with a group of experimenters and so-called planners with their intricate formulas of social and economic security under the misguided notion that economic security and freedom and liberty are one and the same thing. If you were to ask me, on what group of our people falls the greatest responsibility for the future well-being of Newfoundland, I would put my finger on those who drudge in the city, town and village, and those who toil in the forest, in the mines, on the land and upon the sea — these are the people of labour, Mr. Chairman; these are the people who built this country, in good times and bad. It was the men and women of labour who made our cities, towns and villages and serviced them; it is they who

Be it resolved that this Convention recommend to the United Kingdom government that the wishes of the people of Newfoundland should be ascertained at the earliest moment as to whether it is their desire that responsible government as it existed in Newfoundland prior to its suspension in 1934, be restored; or that the present form of government be continued.

built our churches and schools and staffed them. We are here, Mr. Chairman, representing those people, to consider the good and welfare of them all. So let us see to it that their faith in democratic government is not injured — and when we speak of faith, I say that faith can be applied to the events, problems and controversies of modern living, especially in the field of industry and the relationships of business and labour. Our problem is to restore human affairs in this country to a satisfactory state without sacrificing the essential framework of our way of life. To save what is good in our present economy based on a legitimate profit motive and the natural right of private ownership, we must first get to know entwining abuses, and then be prepared to cut those abuses away. What is basically good in this country of ours must be thoughtfully and conscientiously observed in the face of sceptical and perhaps muddled thinking — that will take time and study, and study takes time and sacrifice. We must prepare, as any alert businessman would do to save a going concern, to sacrifice whatever does not contribute to the general good. The Newfoundland people must be careful in their consideration of their domestic problems. I feel confident, Mr. Chairman, that the people of Newfoundland are not going to be prompted by any jittery impulse to grasp at some quick social formula that promises some kind of a general remedy. The toilers of this country will decide in their own good time and in their own way without any flag-waving speeches and fancy talk from anyone. That is the way I look at it, and I believe the great majority of our people look upon this question in the same way. They will decide for themselves. It is quite true that we in New-