

I understand it, a roving commission is one meant to go around and get facts.

Mr. Chairman I am not saying what His Excellency meant; that would be impertinence on my part. All I can do is to construe the words.

Mr. Hollett That is a point that has also been troubling me. It has been insinuated here that we might possibly send a delegation to Timbuctoo. Where are we going to draw the line about this roving commission? I would like to refer you to paragraph 2 of this White Paper:

Accordingly, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, having considered the changed financial and economic position of Newfoundland, it was announced by the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in the House of Lords on the 11th December, 1945, that steps would be taken as soon as possible to provide machinery whereby the Newfoundland people would be enabled to examine the future of the Island and to express their considered views as to the form of Government they desire, having regard to the financial and economic conditions prevailing at the time.

In Newfoundland, not in Canada or Timbuctoo. Whilst I am not in a position of disputing your ruling, sir, or the distinguished constitutional historian who has been sent out here by the Dominions Office, yet my mind is not satisfied that we, as a Convention, have the right to send a delegation to Canada, to England or even to Timbuctoo; and I would like to have that position fully clarified, at least as far as my mind is concerned, and I would like to have clarification on the point which Major Cashin raised.

Mr. Chairman I confirm my ruling.

Mr. Watton Mr. Chairman, I have listened with varying emotions to the several speakers on the resolution now before this House. Some with profound interest, to others with disgust.

As I have stated before in this House, I came to this Convention with an open mind, and I want to make it clear that no one either inside or outside this Convention has succeeded in altering my opinion. I have not been offered any senatorships, neither have I been offered a trip to Ottawa; I also want it to be understood that I am not a confederate, not that it will make any difference to me what people think of me. As far as this motion now before the Chair is concerned I am going to

support it. The people of this country, whom we represent, the people of Fogo district, whom I personally represent, expect when the time comes to be given the real facts, they want to know if this country is self-supporting at this moment, if it is likely to be so in the future. In short they want to know just where we stand as a country. They also want to know about forms of government, whether it be Commission government, responsible government, confederation or any other form, and we have got to give it to them. Whether we like it or not, there are thousands of people who think that confederation is the best thing that could ever happen in this country. Perhaps it is, I don't know, nobody knows, and I therefore consider it our duty to find out. When the terms of confederation are made known those who are now favouring it may be turned against it; on the other hand, the terms may be such that every man and woman in this country may demand it. Who are we to dictate to these people whose servants we are? There are people who say they are Newfoundlanders and will not be a party to selling this country up the St. Lawrence River. It's not a question of selling the country to anyone, it's just a matter of doing a job we were sent here to do. I am also a Newfoundlander, and when I say that, I am proud of it — I mean it. Together with thousands of others I freely gave six of the best years of my life in the service of my country. I am not going to lower myself by asking somebody where they were in the last war or any other war; it's none of my business, I leave that to the dictates of their own consciences. But that is beside the point.

It has been stated that there is some ulterior motive in bringing in this resolution. Be that as it may, I am beginning to believe that there is some ulterior motive behind those opposing it. Is it possible that those who are opposing the seeking of the terms of confederation are afraid that the terms are going to be so good it will upset their political castle of dreams and bring it tumbling around their ears? The people of this country have been bluffed and hoodwinked long enough, it's about time they were given some of the cold hard facts, whether it suits our own personal, selfish desires or not. The people have never had a chance to live half-decent lives, but in spite of that there are those who would have us believe that we are living in prosperous times, that we are