

necessarily negotiating. You could say to him, "Well, this thing is ambiguous, and I don't understand it. Would you mind breaking it down and telling me exactly what you mean?" I don't think you are negotiating by the mere fact that you request further information.

Mr. Job I was not making that point, sir; but in any case, the main point that we have got to decide in the next few days is how long it will take to get this information corrected.... I don't know what the feeling of this Convention is, but my own feeling is that if it is going to take months, how can we possibly ask the country to wait?

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gracious and charming things the Hon. Mr. Job has said. I think there is something utterly delightful in the naivete with which he suggests that we might perhaps drop this question of confederation. And on what basis? On the basis that Major Cashin doubts the accuracy of one or two items in this table here compiled. Major Cashin has a right to doubt it. He has directed a question asking the Government of Newfoundland — no, sir, not to break down this same table, that is something completely different. This is a table compiled by the Government of Canada giving the estimate of what revenue they would collect from the people of Newfoundland if Newfoundland became a province. In doing that they have tried to picture Newfoundland's trade as a province, and on that basis they have compiled that table. Major Cashin has asked our government not to picture Newfoundland as a province, but only to picture Newfoundland paying the Canadian rates of tariff on the trade we are now doing, not on the trade that we would do if we were a province. I suggest this to Major Cashin now, that he ask the Government of Canada in respect of this table the same thing that Mr. Hollett has asked the Government of Canada in respect of the table on the next page. Mr. Hollett has asked them to give us more details of what the Canadian government will spend in Newfoundland. Now I suggest that he or Major Cashin, or someone, ask the Government of Canada more detail of the estimate of what they will collect from Newfoundland. If it is suggested that this thing is so hopelessly wrong, let's get at the bottom of it.

Mr. Job How long will it take?

Mr. Smallwood How long? I could suggest an idea on that.... Do we deny that the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Canada is served by outstandingly able financial men, do we deny that? Why we have them in our own Finance Department, a tiny little department, but the Government of Canada is served by some of the ablest economists in the world, not *the* ablest, but *some* of the ablest.... Don't think for a moment that when they compiled that table of \$20 million they were just pulling it out of the air like a magician. Oh, no! It is based on solid, concrete information. And furthermore, don't suppose that when they got that total of \$20 million that they then took all their basic working pages and burnt them. I suggest that it is likely that the individual tables of statistics upon which each of these items are based are still extant, in the various financial offices in Ottawa; and I suggest that if we sent to them and asked them, politely, because they are a friendly government ... to explain in a little more detail the estimate of \$3.2 million a year for income tax that they figure they would get from the people of Newfoundland; if you ask them to explain how they arrive at a figure of \$7.5 million a year from Newfoundland in tax on the companies and corporations, I feel that they would give us more detail. If you ask how they come to the figure of \$2 million on customs duties and excise taxes, I have little doubt that they would give you that information, and you could have it back here in time for your re-opening in January.

Do you suppose that the Government of Canada ... do you expect that that nation is served by ignorant clowns? Do you suppose they plucked these figures out of the air? Do you suppose they are not based on something, when they know every little nook and corner of our national debt? They know exactly every item of merchandise that comes into Newfoundland, where it comes from, what it costs, and what duties are paid on it. They have a Department of Trade and Commerce with 6,000 employees, one of the world's greatest, and don't think for a moment that this is a table that is faked or fraudulent, or that they imagined it, that it is without foundation. You are talking about a table compiled by the government of a great nation. You can't talk about them as though they were a pack of crooks....

Now I would suggest to Major Cashin, as he