

each and every man's opinion, whatever our own beliefs or determination.

Let every man too, be fearless and outspoken, within the bounds of the agreed rules of procedure, and with due respect for the Chair. Let no man be awed by the glib and prolix amongst us; each of us has his convictions and it is imperative that we express ourselves. Let us do so with directness, remembering at all times to preserve the dignity of this assembly in the face of the country and the outside world.

No government in this country has ever undertaken so grave a responsibility as that which weighs on this assembly: to recommend a constitution or constitutions for the choice of the people of Newfoundland. We are told that the people want this or that, when in truth what the people want, simply, is a guarantee — a guarantee of good government and a guarantee that capable and honest men will not be lacking for the conduct of affairs. Given that guarantee, the present indecision about self-government will be swept away.

Too much time is devoted to talking about the problem of Newfoundland and not enough energy applied to finding a solution. The prophets of gloom assert we are eternally on the edge of an abyss; that nothing can be done; that we have no future — as though no other country ever had a problem. What is this fantastic problem of Newfoundland? We speak the same language; we enjoy religious freedom; we have no persecuted minorities; we do not want to make war on anybody to gain more living space. In this modern day our fishery resources are virtually untapped; we have forests; we have minerals; we are a hard-working and good-living people. Where then is the problem? It is nothing more or less than ourselves; we will not trust ourselves to ourselves and so we trust ourselves to others. That is not a problem — it is a state of mind that only mutual trust and a belief in our own integrity can overcome.

Part of that state of mind is our readiness to take the line of least resistance. It is so much easier to assume that nothing can be done than to actually try to accomplish some end. It brings to mind the phrase of an anonymous writer: "The reason some men do not succeed is because their wishbone is where their backbone ought to be." Is that part of our problem? Do we spend too

much time wishing for something to happen instead of working to make things happen? Is that why we feel we cannot run our country, because we haven't the backbone, and so we turn it over to others who have the backbone, but unfortunately for us have not the same ends in view? I think that the root of our problem is spiritual; not in the religious sense, but in the sense that means enthusiastic, mettlesome, animated with a belief and a flaming desire to make Newfoundland a better home, and Newfoundlanders a name to conjure with among all men. We are still a pioneer country, and we need the pioneer spirit, unafraid to blaze new trails, cross new frontiers, and look ahead to far horizons of achievement.

In closing my remarks in connection with the seconding of the motion proposed by the Hon. Mr. Job, I address a special word to the people of Newfoundland, by whose faith in us we are here. Your responsibility did not end with the elections in June, for the most important vote you will ever make will be cast on the recommendations of this Convention in a future referendum. You must keep informed, and we will see to it that you are kept informed by radio and newspaper so that you will be enabled when the time comes to make the right decision. And in urging you to follow the proceedings of the Convention with all your attention, standing here in this chamber peopled with the ghosts of many public-spirited men, I warn you that no system can guarantee self-government to a people too indolent, too ignorant or too indifferent to cherish and fight for its own freedom.

It is in this spirit, Mr. Chairman and members of the National Convention, that I second the motion made by the Hon. Mr. Job that an address of loyalty be presented to His Majesty the King and an address of thanks be presented to His Excellency the Governor from this Convention. **Mr. Chairman** Does any other member wish to speak to the motion? If not, is the Convention ready for the question?

It has been proposed by Mr. Job and seconded by Mr. Harrington that the Chairman of this National Convention be requested to appoint a select committee to draft in suitable form two resolutions, one of which will be to the effect that the members of this National Convention, elected by the people of Newfoundland, desire to place on record, as their first act, an expression of