

its nationalised airline. Those privileges are worth more than money. We are not allowed to operate Gander as a private enterprise, to see if we can make it pay. We are not allowed to lease it to PICA¹ or anyone else so that we can escape the deficit. We have no rights there, and then when we say that we should not have to be saddled with the deficit of \$750,000 on Gander because it is not being run on business lines, they tell us this \$500,000 a year to pay two-thirds of the deficit is at the expense of the British taxpayer. It is not cricket to give us that kind of answer and they know it. Why should they throw us this stuff about the British taxpayer as if we were trying to rob the poor, when we object to paying the deficit on an airport we are supposed to own and don't control? And with all due sympathy to that British taxpayer, Mr. Chairman, I would point out that the Chancellor of the Exchequer expects to have a large surplus in the present fiscal year. We, in this country, with the highest revenue we have ever had, are expected to have a deficit.

I got a great surprise in the discussion of the US base deal. I always thought that it was not part of the destroyer deal. That was officially stated at the time. To my astonishment, Lord Addison said the Americans would not have given the destroyers without the bases in Newfoundland. We were deceived even there. I know the Americans drove a hard bargain. I still don't think that the agreements should have been made beyond the duration without some reciprocal arrangement. The Americans got from us, through their hard bargain with a desperate Britain, privileges which they would have given millions to get by purchase. They got all these things out of Britain's need in order to serve their own defence interest. I don't know what would have happened if we had a Newfoundland government that said Britain could give America everything we had for the duration, and we would reserve the right to enter into reciprocal negotiations afterwards. I don't mind venturing the guess that Britain would still have got the destroyers.

I have come back a disappointed man. I expected nothing that was not fair and reasonable. I am as loyal and patriotic as any man in this country. I want no part in imposing new burdens on Britain in her present need. But we asked for

nothing that was not fair, that was not right, and that would have put any new hardships on the British government or the British people. We did not get the kind of reception we expected. I did not expect to see flags waving and the Lord Mayor standing in his robes at the entrance to the City of London to greet us. But I did think that the people who have been trustees for this country, and who have disposed of so many of our assets in these past 14 years, might at least have been a bit more cordial in their discussions. It looks to me, sir, that Newfoundland is still the Cinderella of the Empire.

We suggested they reduce our debt by applying the \$10 million interest-free loan to its reduction. They said no, although it cost them nothing, and it would have saved \$400,000 a year in interest and \$100,000 a year in sinking fund charges. We suggested lending them dollars to buy fish they wanted and were going to take at higher prices from other countries, and they said no, and told us we had no right even to talk about it. They would make no definite promises about a few million dollars worth of ore from Bell Island, although they want ore and have to buy it from Spain or Sweden if not from Newfoundland, and pay for it in something the Swedes or Spaniards can use. The only pledge of any kind was that, if we got into financial difficulties after all our surplus was gone, they would try within the limits of their financial position to help keep us solvent. Well, I know what that means. When they had plenty of dollars the best that was done for us by the Commission of Government was to pay out dole at the rate of 6 cents a day.

Mr. Chairman, I am not afraid to stand alone as a Newfoundlander. We are a fine people. We should be an independent people. I want no presents or gifts from anyone, and I think what we have heard as a result of our visit ought to suggest to us that we should decide to stand on our own feet and work out our future by our own efforts. As I see it, what we were told in London leaves us no choice. I am a Britisher and I intend to stay one. I have, as I said before, the greatest sympathy for the ordinary people of Britain, and I want nothing from them. But I am not satisfied that this country has the kind of sympathy that ought to exist between blood relations, and for that I blame the Dominions Office and not the

¹Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation.