would seriously affect this. Those who would alarm us on our local matters endeavour to console us on this question, and the ordinary word of caution they try to kill in an avalanche of words. They would be as helpless as you or I in the face of events that would follow union. Poor hope for our people, if they have to trust themselves forever to the charity and goodwill of a foreign master. We are the masters here; division of our people cannot be weighed in terms of supposedly improved services. We can and we rapidly are improving these services. The extent to which they shall progress will bear relation to capacity to pay.

I might be expected to comment on the manner in which we were told that in respect to local government we could please ourselves. That is largely true, but the truth was not fully presented. Local or municipal government in Canada is obliged to render greater and more costly services to the communities where they exist than they are in Newfoundland. For instance, half the cost of public relief, half the cost of education is thrown by the provincial government into the hands of local governments or councils as we know them. I do not grumble about the possibility of having to do this; what concerns me is the ability or inability of a council to take care of these added obligations. I can see in such a possibility the loss of the ground we have already gained, and a great and lasting injury done our people. But even these matters are secondary and could be sacrificed to great national principles if such could be served. Judged in this light, this union with Canada falls short again. For this is not a division; it is not a partition, it is absorption, it is the swallowing of a little country that was once called Newfoundland, and many of the privileges, many of the advantages which we now enjoy may cause indigestion to the Canadian appetite.

The coming referendum and the few remaining months prior thereto will be a most important time and event in the history of our country. There and then we shall go on record as a people, and the eyes of the world shall judge us accordingly for long years to come, for this is an irrevocable decision, even as they today still judge Esau of old, who said to his brother, "Give me of thy red pottage for I am exceeding faint"; and Jacob the brother replied, "Sell me thy

birthright." And Esau answering said, "Lo, if I die what will my birthright avail me?" Thus he would lose forever the birthright for which he had so little account, and all for a mess of pottage.

Mr. Figary Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the motion which is now before the Chair. In listening to addresses of members of this Convention at this time and at other times, I have come to this conclusion: that there have been too many longwinded addresses which have been corrupting and confusing the minds of the people.

We are here, Mr. Chairman, with this in mind: after considering the changes that have taken place in this country since 1934, to recommend to His Majesty's Government in Great Britain suitable forms of government to be placed before the people in a national referendum, who will decide as to the future set-up, and I will not try to block any form of government going on the ballot paper, and I do not think it advisable for any other member to try and do so. We have thousands and thousands of people who favour confederation with Canada, and I do not think it right and reasonable for us, as members of this Convention, to try and deprive them of that privilege. In speaking of the terms offered by the Canadian government, some I cannot accept but to a large extent, to my mind, they are quite favourable. The people of this country are looking for something better than what they have been getting, and let us all hope that when the ballot is taken, a decision will be made in the right direction.

Now, I am not at all sure that this country is so wonderfully prosperous today as we have been asked to believe. I will admit some people are prosperous, but there are thousands of fishermen and labourers who are still looking for this prosperity that they hear so much about. There are thousands of our people who are struggling day by day and week by week with the terrible high cost of living, a cost of living that seems to climb higher and higher month by month. It takes pretty high wages today for a working man to support a family. And what about the thousands who don't get high wages in Newfoundland? I have noticed for a long time that the cost of living has an ugly habit of rising much faster than wages ever do. The fishermen and workers get hit every time. This Convention must not run away with the idea that all our people in this country are so wonderfully prosperous. I can tell you plainly