

government, please to rise.

*[No preference recorded]*

**Mr. Chairman** When we come to the next mo-

tion, any member who wishes to express his preference will have an opportunity to do so.

*[The Convention adjourned]*

### January 23, 1948

**Mr. Cashin** Mr. Chairman, before proceeding with the orders of the day, I would like to draw your attention, and the attention of the Convention, to my question asked on January 9, and I will read it again:

I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask the Commissioner for Finance and/or the Commission of Government, (1) in the event of Newfoundland becoming a province of Canada, what would happen to the deposits now in the Newfoundland Savings Bank?

(2) Would the Newfoundland Savings Bank continue as at present, and would the depositors continue to receive the same rate of interest on their deposits as they now receive?

That question was put on January 9, that is 14 days ago. No reply has been received at all. The other day we were told indirectly by Mr. Carew that the thing had been passed on to the High Commissioner for Canada. That is probably four or five days ago, and there is no reply yet. In view of the fact that we are going to discuss Mr. Smallwood's motion I feel that we are entitled to that reply not after it is all over, but during the discussion, because it is a very important matter. There's \$20 million down there belonging to the people of Newfoundland, small deposits most of it, and we are entitled to have that question answered. It has been there two weeks, and no reply has been received. There is no excuse, none whatever.

Further, I also asked a question on January 13, 11 days ago.

I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask His Excellency the Governor in Commission to ascertain from His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom the following information:

If in the referendum proposed to be held in the spring of 1948 for the selection by the people of Newfoundland of a future form of government, such referendum will be decided by and such future form of government will be selected on the basis of:

(a) The form of government on the ballot

which received at least 51% of the total votes cast.

(b) The form of government on the ballot which received a majority of the total votes cast.

(c) The form of government on the ballot which received a greater number of votes than any other individual form of government on the ballot.

That question has been there now 11 days.

**Mr. Chairman** I understand, Major Cashin, that the reply to that question will be received this afternoon.

**Mr. Cashin** Thanks very much. Now with respect to the Savings Bank one, what about that?

**Mr. Chairman** All I can say is there has been no indifference or inertia. Every time it has been drawn to our attention it has been taken up, and it has been forwarded to the High Commissioner for Canada, with the request that he should telegraph the question to Canada, and ask for an immediate reply. I don't know whether that has been done.

**Mr. Cashin** The last time I brought that up was Monday, and Captain Warren said he got in touch with Mr. Carew, and he got in touch with the High Commissioner and all that has been done. What is the position supposing we don't get a reply? Are we to continue discussing the matter when we don't know what is going to happen to \$20 million belonging to our people?

**Mr. Chairman** All I can say is that we will go back again. We can only try. Captain Warren, can you go back this afternoon and say that this reply is urgent?

**Mr. Cashin** I suppose this House will close this afternoon until Monday, and I think we should have a reply then. Is it possible for us to get a definite answer as to whether a reply can be had on Monday?

**Mr. Chairman** Will you please get in touch with them, Captain Warren, and will you please be good enough to put it up to them that way, so that we can know where we are.

**Mr. Cashin** I think the Convention and the country are entitled to it.