

confederation it'll only be because our people will want it, and they'll want it, if they do, only because the terms will make this a better country for them to live in. We owe it to the people to get them the facts they need to make up their minds on this question. We owe them that. It is our plain duty to get the facts for them, and I do not see how we can fail in that duty.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, let me repeat the solemn pledge I have made to this House and to the country: if the terms, when we get them, are good for our people, then I shall support them. If they are not good, then I shall oppose and condemn them as strongly as anyone. Let us set the machinery going now that will eventually, eight or ten weeks from now, put the facts before us. Let us decide to get the machinery going and then forget about confederation until the facts are laid before us by the delegation after their return from Ottawa. Let us remember that it is the people of Newfoundland we are here to serve, first, last and all the time. Let us turn our backs upon nothing that might be good for our Newfoundland people.

[The Chairman proposed a change in the wording of the motion which was accepted by the mover and seconder]

Mr. Chairman Now to that original question, moved by Mr. Smallwood and seconded by Mr. Higgins K.C., the following amendment has been moved by Mr. Penney and seconded by Mr. Roberts, namely: "That all words after the words 'national referendum' in the preamble to the motion be deleted, and the following substituted therefor; namely: 'But that the question of ascertaining the attitude of the Government of Canada towards the possibility of federal union of Newfoundland with Canada and the further question of sending a delegation to Ottawa to ascertain the terms and conditions on the basis of which the Government of Canada consider that such union might be effected, be deferred for consideration until the reports of the committees appointed pursuant to the session of September 20 have been presented to this Convention, or such earlier or other date as the Convention may determine.'"

The debate on the original question has finished. The amendment submits a separate question. To that question several members already have spoken, including Mr. Penney who moved it, Mr. Roberts who seconded it, Mr.

Smallwood and Mr. Brown. The other members of the Convention if they so desire and see any need for so doing, may speak to the amendment.

Mr. Hollett It is not my intention to delay the debate. I am neither very much enamoured of the amendment, and certainly not of the motion, but I believe I shall vote for the amendment. I regret there seems to be from day to day a change in the manner of procedure. One day we seem to be using parliamentary procedure, and some other day we seem to be using some other form of procedure, so it makes it rather awkward when one gets to his feet to make some remarks.

Mr. Chairman I have to correct you, Mr. Hollett. There is no variance in the procedure originally laid down whatsoever. Where the rules approved by this Convention are silent then ordinary parliamentary procedure applies. If you refer to the point relative to the naming of a member, I have explained that, and I do not propose to let your comment pass either unchallenged or unmarked that from day to day there is any variance in the procedure in this assembly.

Mr. Hollett Please understand I am not casting any aspersions at the Chair. That is the feeling which I have, maybe I am wrong.

Mr. Chairman Insofar as the Chairman controls the procedure and regulates the conduct of business, I can't imagine that your reference has any other inference than the one to which I now call your attention and on which I challenge you.

Mr. Hollett Speaking just a word to that, Mr. Chairman, I might say that in a debate a few days ago there was strong objection taken by the Chair to what was then called personalities.

Mr. Chairman Exactly.

Mr. Hollett And if the mover of the motion in his reply of a few moments ago did not use personalities and was upheld by the Chair, then I must have heard wrongly.

Mr. Chairman You did hear wrongly. You did not hear my interruption of Mr. Smallwood, and my direction to him that I do not allow personalities to be indulged in, and that if he continued I would certainly have to call him to order.

Mr. Hollett Thank you, sir. I do feel that both the amendment and the motion are inopportune, premature, and I doubt the legality, or the ability, of this Convention sending a delegation to consult with the Dominion's House of Commons. Some reference has been made to a remark which