

for myself, and I promise you that, as far as it lies in my ability at least, while you are in the Chair and for the remainder of this Convention's life, I for one will be an absolute model of parliamentary propriety, dignity and decorum. If the members who smile are inclined to doubt the sincerity of what I say, I will give you at this moment an earnest of the sincerity of my statement and intentions, when I offer, through you, to a member of this Convention about whom at the last sitting on Friday last, in the heat of debate and in a state of anger, I made a remark which now I wish to withdraw. I refer to the remark I made about my good and learned friend behind me, Mr. Hollett. I withdraw the remark. I apologise sincerely to him, and promise him sincerely that he will have to provoke me much more than he has ever done in the past, before I will make another insulting remark about him....

Mr. Chairman, I wish you every success in your office, and I believe you will be a success. I look upon you as one Newfoundlander, amongst others, who has come up from the ranks by hard work, great study and brilliance of mind. I acclaim you as a Newfoundlander of whom we always can be proud. You have my respect, and you will have my co-operation to the dying hour of this Convention.

Mr. Hollett Mr. Chairman, I don't propose to make any extended remarks in reply to my friend Mr. Smallwood. I think probably he has the right to lose his temper once in a while, the same as the rest of us, and I can say frankly that I do very

heartily accept his apology for the words which he used towards me the other day, but, as I said, these words were spoken in the heat of debate and I am quite sure that he probably did not mean what he said, and if he did, he has recanted now. Mr. Smallwood and myself have got along very peaceably in the past 12 months. We have fallen out once in a while, but it was always in the course of debate when we were trying to decide something which we each believed to be for the benefit, or otherwise, of our country.

I am rather appalled at the attitude taken by some of the daily papers in connection with the little episode which happened here on Friday. Speaking for myself, I remember being in the British House of Commons last May at question time, and there were more cat-calls across the floors of that assembly than we have cast at each other in the whole 12 months. There were cat-calls and cries of "sit down" and "get out"; and nobody seemed to worry about that, it was in the ordinary course of debate.... I accept this apology from Mr. Smallwood, and I would like, sir, in accepting it, to offer to you my heartiest congratulations on this office which you have assumed, and which I know will tax even you; at times you will be taxed probably as to the correct decision to give, but I feel quite sure that I can add my words to Mr. Smallwood in offering you my whole-hearted support in this strenuous job which you have undertaken for your country.

[The Convention adjourned]

October 17, 1947¹

Report of the Finance Committee:² Committee of the Whole

Mr. Keough Before I present myself to the subject matter which is before us, I should like, sir, seeing that this is the first occasion on which I have spoken since your advent to our midst, to say a word of welcome to yourself.... It was a wise choice that led to your selection, and it is with considerable reassurance that we welcome you to the Chair of this assembly. It is to a most important undertaking that you are committed, to preside with impartiality and with wisdom over the deliberations of this House. The task to which

this assembly is committed is of much moment to all the people. We are all little men sent here to serve a great purpose. But because the purpose is great, if we serve it worthily, some of the greatness will descend upon us. But if we serve this purpose unworthily, our names will stand forever cursed, and our posterity will point to us as men of little soul, who could not face the supreme power of our faith when its challenge came. I am quite confident that your guidance, sir, will increase the measure of the illustrious-

¹The proceedings for October 17, 1947, were taken from the recording of the debate.

²Volume II:369.