

tion, which sent them to Ottawa to do a certain job, and any information they got up there, or any talks they had with the Canadian government, or representatives of the Canadian government, I say that such records belong to this Convention, and not to those who went to Ottawa, just the same as the talks we had over in London were the property of this Convention ... and if there was any secret stuff going on in Ottawa — I don't say there was — then we should have it.

Mr. Chairman As I said before, unless I am satisfied by clear and unmistakable evidence that is the right of the Ottawa delegation to withhold information from this Convention ... I hold that it is the property of the Convention, and it should not be withheld. If there are documents in the possession of the members of the delegation which reached them in a confidential capacity, on the express condition that their contents should not be disclosed, and they gave that undertaking, I will have to go further into the question and find out the circumstances.... I make a direction now that all other documents and memoranda in the possession of any such members should be mimeographed immediately and distributed to the Convention.

Mr. Job May I point out that in the case of the English delegation the same question arose, and it was withheld for some little time, but was finally released by the British government and delivered to each member on condition that it did not go any further. Now surely the same procedure can be followed here. It does not seem to be reasonable. I find it very difficult to understand.

Mr. Chairman ...I will have to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that any information in the possession of the Ottawa delegation is not the property of this Convention before I am prepared to hold that that is so.

Mr. Higgins I state again, as far as my position is concerned in the matter, everything was to be regarded as secret until our report to the Convention, and then everything was to be released by the delegation. Now apparently some members of the delegation hold a contrary view, and, as it may be a matter of conscience for them, it might be better to ask the question directly to the Government of Canada. As far as I am concerned, I am willing to release it immediately....

Mr. Chairman There are three schools of thought on the question raised by Major Cashin.

In the one case, I think you took the position that nothing was to be regarded as secret as far as the Convention was concerned at all. On the other hand some members went to the other extreme, and said they regarded it as all confidential; and then in between, some members thought that it was secret for some purposes and not for others. I said the other day that I did not want to come between any man and his conscience, but I think your suggestion is the proper one. If Major Cashin's point is well taken, and I think it is, then to relieve any members who may feel that I am coming between them and their conscience, I think that you, Mr. Higgins, or someone this afternoon should table another question to the Government of Canada, and let's have it disposed of once and for all: whether all or any of the information in possession of all or any members of the Ottawa delegation is to be treated as secret, in the sense that it can be withheld from the members of this Convention.

Mr. Bailey Mr. Chairman, that is not what I was going to say. If the members of the Ottawa delegation are willing, I believe we could table a motion the same as we did with the London delegation. We had the very same trouble there, and after a while it came through. One man looks at it from one angle, and another from another, but to be fair to the Ottawa delegation, and also to be fair to the Convention and the people, I believe that the Canadian government should be asked to release everything so that we can get down to the job. If I may liken it to something, it is like coming in with the official log book. You lay it on the owner's table. What does he know about it? But if you bring in a scratch log he can see the whole thing in a nutshell, and it seems to me that is just like it. We have just got the official log, and the scratch log is something secret. The members of this delegation have something that we are not allowed to have. I believe the right way to get at it is to table a motion and ask the Canadian government if those people are bound by that.

Mr. Smallwood I think perhaps the Convention would like to save a little time. You are going to table a motion to the Government of Canada through the regular channels, asking them if the Ottawa delegation may release certain documents, and by the time that government gets that request and makes its reply to us, the Convention