

Letters Patent which were proclaimed effective February 1934, suspending our free political institutions. That is the position in a nutshell. What I will be able to think and what I will be able to do after next Friday, and the very limited things I am permitted to do right now, I want to assure you will be two different propositions.

Mr. Hollett What was the point of order?

Mr. Chairman The point of order was that your references to the Letters Patent 1934 was *ultra vires* to the National Convention Act. On that point I ruled that the point was well taken. We have no jurisdiction to deal with it at all. Whether there has been a breach of good faith by the imperial government is a matter upon which I am not permitted to make any comment.

Mr. Hollett I did not make that statement. I pointed out that if Mr. Higgins had included another form in addition to the two, into that motion, I could not find myself for a moment voting for it, simply because if he had done so he would be doing something which was repugnant to the law under which we live, that is the Letters Patent of 1933.

Mr. Chairman I am not concerned with the Letters Patent.

Mr. Hollett It is a question of the law under which we live.

Mr. Chairman I have to construe the validity in the light of the Convention Act. I do not propose to concern myself with anything else. I am not on an originating summons reviewing any legislation other than the National Convention Act, that is the only thing. The validity or otherwise of Mr. Higgins' motion in its present or other form has to be construed in that light, and it stands or falls in the light of the interpretation to be placed upon the National Convention Act and nothing else.

Mr. Hollett I think some people in this Convention are deliberately misunderstanding me. I am not trying to talk out of order.

Mr. Chairman I do not know whether that remark is intended for me or not. The ruling which I gave is a matter to which I have given serious thought since I was in constitutional law, since 1933. Therefore I am going to discharge my duty, and members will have to discharge their duties under section 3 of the Act, whether they like it or not. It is too late now to say you are dissatisfied about it. I did not pass the Act. I take no responsibility for it. Your duties here and mine

are regulated and determined by the National Convention Act, not the Amulree Report, not the Letters Patent, not anything else. Here it is. Here is what we are operating under. The validity or otherwise of what goes on here has to be determined in the light of this Act alone, nothing else but.

Mr. Hollett I want you to understand I was not speaking contraminded to your judgement or decision. I shall say nothing more than I want to make my position clear. The position which I took in the first instance was that if Mr. Higgins had included another form of government in addition to the ones he has there in his motion, that I should have had to vote against it simply because I think it would have been repugnant to the law of the land. I was endeavouring to do that, and in order to do that I am not allowed to quote the law.

Mr. Chairman I do not like your terminology. You are misconstruing something I have said and I am not going to have it. My position is that you have no right to review the Letters Patent or any other piece of legislation under this Act. You can vote how you like and as you see fit, but you cannot come in here and attempt to put a construction on section 3 of the National Convention Act, under which Mr. Higgins' motion was tabled, by reference to legislation which has absolutely no bearing on the National Convention Act.

Mr. Hollett I want you to understand me. As I said before, I have every respect and admiration for your judgement. I was about to say that I did refer to the National Convention Act in the first instance. The National Convention Act is an act enacted under our law, further than that I shall not go. How many minutes have I now, sir?

Mr. Chairman I have taken some of your time which I felt I had to do to rule on the order of business before the Chair. I think under the circumstances you ought to be allowed an extension of 15 minutes.

Mr. Hollett I want no extension of time. Section 3 of the Convention Act says it shall be the duty and function of the Convention to meet to consider and discuss amongst themselves the changes which have taken place in the economic and financial position of Newfoundland having due regard to the effect which wartime prosperity may have had upon it; and then to make