

Mr. Cashin What I think should happen is, that this recommendation goes to the government; they will draft an amendment to clause 2 and send it back here to see if it covers our request. Could we not appoint a sub-committee to discuss with the government the fixing of section 2?

Mr. Smallwood If the meeting agrees that that is included in your motion — that the Chairman is to have his vote — that he is not to lose his privilege as a member.

Mr. Crosbie We all understand that.

Mr. Fudge In view of Mr. Bradley's being now recommended to the government, and let us assume Mr. Bradley is appointed by the government, then the fact that the Steering Committee will have to go over the rules of procedure and fix them according to the appointment to the Chair, why all this trouble about changing the rules?

Mr. Smallwood The Steering Committee has no such right. The committee is not a cabinet and can decide nothing. The Convention has that right.

Mr. Butt There is a question of principle involved. Instead of making a recommendation, we should appoint our own Chairman now. We are in session; this has come up. It is a question of principle and dignity. We ought to have the right to appoint our own Chairman and we ought to decide whether the Chairman is to have the right to vote. We go back to the Commission and say, "We want the right to carry on ourselves." If you trace back the history of the Convention, it is a parliament of disabilities. One of the rights of parliament is that it can make legislation. We are, in effect, a minor parliament. Is not that right, Mr. Bradley?

Mr. Bradley In principle you are right.

Mr. Butt We should undertake *now* to appoint Mr. Bradley as Chairman. We should undertake also to give him the right to retain his vote. It is a question of principle. If we are here to do a job, let us do it. We ought to demand that right.

Mr. Harrington I would like to support Mr. Butt strongly. The right of parliamentary privilege has come up. Maybe if we had asked for it in the beginning we would have gotten it. If we are not to be a parliament of disabilities I make a motion that we ask to be given parliamentary privileges.

Mr. Smallwood I second that motion. If we

have parliamentary privileges, we can say what we like and no one outside can sue. We have not got that right, and it may be necessary. I have a certain thing to say about a certain commissioner and I am going to say it. I would prefer not to be sued.

Mr. Job Even if it is libelous?

Mr. Smallwood Yes. I want to tell a certain commissioner he is a liar. If we had parliamentary rights, a member, in the public interest, has a certain right to say certain things for which he could not be sued. He can be dealt with by parliament, but cannot be sued. It is a restraining influence if it limits our freedom.

Mr. Bradley I understand something about the privileges of parliament, but I would not go so far as to vote for a recommendation of that kind. I do not think it is necessary, and, what is more to the point, I am perfectly sure you will get no such authority from the government.

Mr. Ballam The motion has been put and carried by a unanimous vote; I suggest we form a committee including the Acting Chairman, Mr. Higgins, Major Cashin and Mr. Smallwood to see that what we decided will be carried out and let us be finished with it. They could report back to the meeting.

Mr. Vardy I support that.

Mr. Harrington I wish to withdraw the motion.
[Mr. Smallwood, seconder, assented]

Mr. Butt On the question which I raised are we going to recommend, or are we going to appoint? We ought not to let technicalities stand in our way.

Mr. Cashin We suggest to the government that they change the act to cover the appointment of a gentleman nominated by us.

Mr. Smallwood That is what we have done. We have nominated a Chairman and we ask them to confirm it. The initiative comes from us.

Mr. Bradley I do not like to get into this debate. I would point out that the principle is correct. This Convention should have the right to select its own Chairman. That is the basis of the whole thing. I would suggest that the motion take something of this form: "That the government be advised that this Convention is of opinion that it should have power to select and recommend its own Chairman and in pursuance of that opinion..." whatever else you would like to add.

Mr. Smallwood "And in pursuance of that