

responsible government and Commission of Government that I should try to keep them from the people, or try to keep them off the ballot. Even if I intend to vote against those two forms of government in the referendum, I consider it to be my duty to vote in favour of putting them both before the people for their decision. I am sure the people will be the deciding factor.

I know that in this present debate I am not allowed to discuss confederation, and I am not going to discuss it. If I were allowed to discuss it, I would say that I strongly advocate putting confederation on the ballot as well.

Mr. Chairman Now, now!

Mr. Ballam Excuse me, sir. We will have a crack at that later, and I will get a chance to advocate it in another debate. I am in favour of submitting both these forms to the people, not because I favour them but because I know that it is my duty to place both of them before the people for their decision. The other will come later.

Mr. Burry I rise to support the motion before you. I am heartily behind putting these two forms on the ballot paper to form part of the choice in the coming referendum. In doing so I want to say I am not able to support either one of these choices from my own point of view. I do not feel that I could support a return to responsible government, and I do not feel that Commission of Government should continue any longer in this country than it already has. There are many, many reasons I could give to back those statements up, but the time is short and the arguments against responsible government have been repeated here so often, I do not want to go over them again. They have been very impressive, some of them; they impressed me and I am sure they impressed the people of this country. I may also say that some of the arguments in favour of the return of responsible government have been impressive. That is, theoretically they are correct and they impress us, but they fall down when they are tested. I do not think they could be practically applied to this small country with our system of taxation, and for the reasons which have been gone over so often in this Convention. I am wholeheartedly in favour of having political freedom for our people. I would not think of voting for anything in the referendum if it did not involve political freedom. I am all for it.

I would like to take a few minutes to say how

I feel about the return to responsible government. The very thought of it puts fear into my bones, to think of this country going back to responsible government again.... These are no idle words. I have a reason to fear the consequences of responsible government coming back, for whether rightly or wrongly, I have associated the political set-up of this country with the economic conditions we have had. I know that the one may not be wholly responsible for the other, but there has been very close connection between the two. It is generally agreed that for the majority of our people life has been a terrific struggle all down through the years, and I was caught up in that struggle myself in my youth. My father was one of the primary producers and he suffered tremendously as one of them. I had a struggle in my early days, my earliest recollections are those of hardship and privation. It is a long story and one which I am not going to trouble you with. I do recall the early struggles and also the struggles to get an education.... I know the struggle my parents had to find a school for me to go to. After I grew up, through my chosen profession I worked and came in close contact with men and women, families, who were having the same kind of struggle to get along. Then for the past 15 years, as you know, I worked in our northern dependency and I was up against the same struggle among the people of that country. Apart from a few places such as Northwest River and Cartwright, the struggle was terrific and I shared it with them intimately. Mr. Harrington a few days ago told of us of the days he worked as a civil servant in the Department of Public Health and Welfare. He told us that day after day he sat before his desk reading letters from different parts of the country telling tragic stories of privation and struggle. During those years I was in the field, and I was actually in the homes from which those letters came. Knowing Mr. Harrington as I do, he must have been moved with compassion as he read those letters. I am sure that Mr. Harrington will agree that it is one thing to sit before a desk in a nice comfortable room, having had one square meal or two square meals, and to read these letters; it is another thing to be in the field, making contacts, going into the homes of these people and seeing their bare cupboards and hearing the cries of children, cries of hunger, cries that never leave you once you have heard them. They