

this Convention's. It took six months to produce a report not as big as one of our nine reports.... What is it we are doing? We are doing the biggest job so far as digging into, finding out and passing on, ever done in this country. People who ask that question have not the brains to get out of their own way.

Mr. Ashbourne When this Convention opened on September 11 the microphones were here, and I for one would not like to debar any person from hearing what was going on in this chamber. If there is anybody who does not wish to listen to the broadcasts, all they have to do is switch their radio over and listen to another programme.

Mr. Penney I was one of the delegates who said I would like to see the microphones thrown out of the room.... At the time I made the statement in this House, I think we were all kind of upset with long-winded speeches and I blamed it on the microphones. I would not want the people of this country to think I would be a party to depriving them of information regarding this Convention. I am just as fully for the obtaining of public information for the people of the outports as any other delegate in this Convention. One thing, I would like to see addresses confined to 15 minutes.

Mr. Butt I think the people of this country are just as much a part of this Convention as the actual members sitting here and they are entitled to every bit of information they possibly can get. The radio was made for this country, as isolated as we are....

I had a feeling from the letter that there was an implication that we ought to soft-pedal our language. I do not know if that was intended. I agree with Mr. Smallwood, who already has said it is up to each individual member, in accordance with his ability, to say anything he believes and it is up to each individual to take the risk afterwards, if it be treated as not proper. I do feel that we ought to get a little harder, and consequently

to speak of the things on our minds regardless of who likes it or who does not like it. If we get into a jam, let us take the rap. The sooner the people get that attitude, the better for the country.

Mr. Harrington I want to go on record as agreeing heartily with Mr. Butt. When I made my initial speech in support of Mr. Job's motion, I felt we should speak our minds with due regard for the rules of procedure and respect for the Chair, and we should not be awed in any way by anyone in the House or outside. In broadcasting at Christmas I said I had no intention of making an apology for anything said here. We could not be expected to turn into Roosevelts or Churchills overnight. Fourteen years we have been without taking part in politics and it takes time to become re-educated. I would like to pay tribute to the various speakers. As for the microphones, I for one would like to see them stay, particularly as it would be a wrong time, now as we will soon be coming to the forms of government, to have them removed....

Mr. Miller I wish to clear up a misunderstanding that perhaps I wanted to have the microphones removed. I asked the Convention to think of two things: one was the removal of the microphones; the other was just what it would mean. We may this afternoon be required to discuss a paragraph of the Mining Report already read which may be embarrassing to us, to others or to the country. If we are to do a thorough job we have to speak fairly and frankly.... There are things crippling Newfoundland's economic position. If we are going to get up and make pretty speeches we are not going to get at it.

Mr. Northcott I wish to support Mr. Higgins' motion. The people of Newfoundland are paying to keep the microphones here. I wish Mr. Higgins had included VOCM....

[The motion carried]

Report of the Mining Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Higgins Before we go into the report proper, there are a couple of questions I am going to try to answer. A question was asked with respect to the 15 cents tax on horsepower to be developed at Grand Falls. We cannot give all the information regarding the taxed horsepower. In

Quebec the price is \$1 on installed horsepower. We do not know the meaning of "installed horsepower." We are going to try and find out from the hydroelectric engineer. It may be the term "installed" would mean "capable of producing."

With respect to Mr. Harrington's question

¹Volume II:313.