

information which, in my opinion, is essential before we can intelligently recommend any form of future government.

You will notice that section 1 deals with the very important question of improved, or perhaps I should say stable, fiscal relationships with the United States of America. I propose in connection with this subject, to issue soon a short pamphlet¹ making clear what is in my mind for the information of members, or of anyone else interested in the question.

Section 2 deals with a point that has been raised once or twice as to whether, under certain circumstances, we can or can not expect any continuation of assistance from Great Britain, and it also leaves open for discussion general questions of finance and exchange between the United Kingdom and Newfoundland.

Section 3 is the section that may be commented upon controversially, but which I hope will be accepted in the spirit in which it is offered. In my opinion we were elected to this Convention to deal in a fair and broad way with our problems, and to make recommendations for their solution. It may be that some think that the confederation issue would be better left alone altogether, and that it is not our business even to discuss it, but in view of the ruling of our late respected Chairman, Mr. Justice Fox, concurred in by Professor Wheare, and I think I am right in saying by our present Chairman, that confederation with Canada is one of the issues open for debate, we would in my opinion be wrong in not facing this fact now, and making some preparations for its discussion at a future date. The inclusion of the confederation issue in this resolution is made only so that our deliberations and recommendations can come to an end as soon as possible. I think that a discussion of the pros and cons of confederation or of any other form of government at the present juncture would be a great mistake, but I cannot agree that we would be unwise in seeking to gather now certain details which must have a bearing on the forms of government which it is clear to me we must debate if we are to accomplish the duties for which we were elected. However, the gathering of such information is the sole object of the resolution, which in its present form provides for reporting back to the whole Convention prior to the despatch of any delega-

tion.

I would like to add that it is my firm belief that confederation with Canada would not be a satisfactory solution to our problems, but it is also evident to me that a considerable number of the people who have elected this Convention will expect a fair and free discussion of the subject. The main point I want to stress is that this is in no way a resolution favouring confederation or any other form of government, and that I have worded it as broadly as possible in the hope that it will be accepted as a non-controversial motion. There is only one other remark I would like to make, and that is that this whole resolution has been drafted by myself without any influence from any other member of the Convention.

Mr. Higgins I should like to second the motion, and to say that I agree entirely with the reasoning of Mr. Job in introducing the resolution.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I support the motion, that I agree with all three sections in it, and that I think the Convention would be well advised to send a committee of its members to the Commission of Government, and seek their advice as to the proper steps for the Convention to take in securing the answers to these three questions.

Mr. Chairman Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. Hollett Mr. Chairman, this is a very important resolution, and one which I think we should study very carefully and think about before we vote. The first section of the resolution ... involves quite a lot. In the first place, I would say "what steps, if any, are to be taken for the establishing of improved economic or fiscal relationships" is a matter which is wholly and solely for the government of the day, or for the business people of the time. I can find nothing in the Newfoundland Act, or the Convention Act, which authorises us to set ourselves up as a body to deal with other nations.... I wonder what attitude the Commission of Government would take if we attempted to interfere in their prerogative, which they undoubtedly possess as the government of the day. It is surely their duty, and theirs only, to approach the United States with regard to concessions in tariff and other matters. On that point alone I think we are sticking our noses into something which at the moment is

¹Robert B. Job, *A Pamphlet on the Idea of a "Partly Internationalized" Newfoundland* (St. John's, 1947).