

that event the present function of the United Kingdom Government in relation to Newfoundland under the terms of the agreement would devolve upon the Government of Canada.

By confederation Canada is again attempting to recover the situation in which it finds itself as a result of the grant of the United States bases, and as you will appreciate fully, by confederation the Canadian government takes the place of the United Kingdom government in its dealings with the United States arising out of the bases deal. Canada further attempted to repair the damage done by the grant of sovereignty of part of Newfoundland to the United States, by the appointment of Mr. Charles Burchell K.C. as High Commissioner to Newfoundland, constituting the first political or diplomatic connection Canada has had with the island. This office is being continued and we still have here a High Commissioner for Canada, as well as a Trade Commissioner. One of Mr. Burchell's first acts was the securing of a 99-year lease to the areas at Goose Bay, and in the same year, 1941, the title to the land required for the airport at Torbay. I will say, in fairness to Mr. Burchell, that the leased land at Labrador is under an entirely different agreement than this bases lease.... As far as Goose Bay is concerned Newfoundland customs duties apply, and I think we have to thank Mr. Burchell for that. Gentlemen, that is the position of the strategic importance of Newfoundland.

**Mr. Smallwood** Point of order. Is it in order for a member of this Convention instead of in a speech, offering his own words, to copy words out of a book and read them as though they were his own? Because I have here in front of me the very book from which Mr. Higgins in his speech was quoting word for word, without saying he was quoting from a book, without naming the author as he did on Friday. I can quote the words from page 488, in a book by Mr. MacKay<sup>1</sup>.... The point of order, sir, is this: is Mr. Higgins permitted to parade in the verbal clothing of another man, without telling the house and the country that what he is doing is using another man's words as his own speech?

**Mr. Higgins** May I go on, sir?

**Mr. Chairman** Just a moment, Mr. Higgins, please. The fact that Mr. Higgins used language identical, or substantially identical, with that employed by Dr. MacKay may be sheer coincidence, or it may be plagiarism. I do not know, and I don't think I should be called upon to decide.

**Mr. Higgins** There need be no doubt.

**Mr. Chairman** Except this, that if you are quoting the language of somebody else, Mr. Higgins, it would be your duty to quote it so that I can rule whether it is in order.

**Mr. Higgins** I did not quote it exactly, but I did use some extracts, sir.

I am not prepared to say that such a union would not be a good thing for Newfoundland, but I do say that before Newfoundland should decide on such a union the matter would have to be much more thoroughly investigated than it has been up to the present time. I believe the delegation that went to Ottawa has gone a long way in its exploratory talks, but I am far from convinced that it has gone sufficiently far, or was sufficiently competent to make a recommendation to the people that federal union with Canada is the best solution for Newfoundland. I say that quite sincerely, because if I was convinced that confederation was the best solution for Newfoundland, no matter what my personal feeling would be, I would vote for it. At the present time all I can say is that it has sufficient promise to bear further investigation. Now as I said earlier, and at the expense of repetition,

1. The union of Canada and Newfoundland appears to have prospects of good for Newfoundland.
2. Unless and until the idea has been given a full and careful exploration by a competent body, it would not be wise to make a decision to have federal union.
3. The only way that this matter should be accomplished is by an elected government having full powers, and with all the assistance, both technical and clerical, necessary for such an important matter.

I have given this whole idea very careful consideration, as I know all you gentlemen here have, and I am honestly and sincerely convinced that the best interests of Newfoundland require

<sup>1</sup>R.A. MacKay (ed.), *Newfoundland: Economic, Diplomatic, and Strategic Studies* (Toronto, 1946).