

a government of Newfoundland and a government of Canada, should be placed before the people of Newfoundland for such a far-reaching decision as the complete change of the constitution of Newfoundland? Or does he not think it reasonable that any terms of union should first be discussed between the governments of both countries so as to make sure that the best terms have been obtained before submission to the people of Newfoundland?

That is the whole gist of the matter, and regardless of what Mr. Smallwood thinks, the average John Citizen in Newfoundland still regards the wisdom and advice of Hon. R. B. Job as being worth as much as his own. Who will finance the campaign Mr. Smallwood talks so much of putting on? Capital? To whom will he cater if he is successful? Capital?

**Mr. Chairman** I must request that you address your remarks to the Chair. You are addressing anything and everything but the Chair.

**Mr. Vardy** Mr. Chairman, one thing we are doing all the way through. We are underestimating the intelligence and statesmanship in both the Canadian and British governments. In my opinion they are capable of properly diagnosing our case. They may be influenced slightly by certain international complications, but I am satisfied that our case will be properly put to the people. For my part, I have endeavoured at all time to be fair to every issue brought before the Chair, to the Chair itself, to my district and the country as a whole. I have acted according to the dictates of my conscience, and regardless of the outcome I shall have no regrets. In closing, Mr. Chairman, I shall seek your indulgence to hear just one more verse written today:

It's a bleak cold day, as we shiver away,  
on a rock called Newfoundland,  
With a carefree roll our caribou stroll  
Through the brush of our hinterland.  
But our populace brave, tries our pride to save,  
Our appeal will soon be heard,  
The Lords and Peers of the British heirs  
will examine just what occurred.  
Two-thirds, they will say, must have their way,  
That's democracy simple and pure.  
Confederation is out, there is now no doubt,

It must be settled next year on the floor.

Then the terms we have scanned, will be improved grand,

By our neighbours on Cabot Strait shore.

I am sorry if I put everyone to sleep.

**Mr. Chairman** I think they are intrigued by your poetic endeavours, like I am myself. I am forced to remind you that time is running out and the time limit for this debate is to expire in expressly 24 hours. I hope there is not going to be a last minute rush for the floor.

**Mr. Spencer** Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the motion before the Chair. I am strongly of the opinion that this Convention must recommend confederation to be put before the people in the referendum. I cannot see how even one member of the Convention can vote against letting our people decide this question. It is the solemn duty of every member here to give the people the chance to say if they want confederation, or if they do not want it. We all have the same duty, whether we personally favour confederation or not. We should not let personal likes or dislikes enter into the picture at all. After all, we in this Convention are not deciding which form of government our country shall have, for that is the people's right. If we of this Convention had the right to decide the question, then there would be no need for holding a referendum. We were sent here to recommend forms of government to be laid before the people for their choice. That is as far as we can go; and it is the plain duty of every man here to support this motion to place confederation before the people. I, for one, will be perfectly satisfied for the people to decide whether our future government will be confederation or not.

In seconding the motion, Mr. Banfield said he was voicing the feeling of the southwest coast. I know that is true. I also know that the people of the southwest coast want confederation to be on the ballot in the referendum — yes, and are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to vote for it. I do not suppose any man would stand in this Convention and say the people of the southwest coast are not Newfoundlanders. I think you would all agree that they are good Newfoundlanders, and that our fishermen are amongst the finest in the country. How can any member of this Convention vote to deny those thousands of Newfoundlanders the chance to vote for the