

the sub-committee, and had submitted reports to the chairman of the sub-committee, the Minister of Transport. This special sub-committee had obtained the information and had submitted it to Mr. Chevrier, who acted as chairman of this sub-committee on transportation.

The substance of these reports had been made available to members of that delegation, and I, with Mr. Ballam and Mr. Smallwood, was passed these copies at that time. I read the report in the Black Book, and I read this, and you will find that practically everything that's in the report is in the Black Book, with the exception of these two very important matters. I make no report on it, I merely draw it to your attention.

Mr. Chairman But I still have to deal with the report raised by Mr. Harrington, and as I have not discussed it yet, would you mind answering my question. Had I been in Ottawa as a private professional man would I have received that document?

Mr. Higgins I doubt very much if the other members, Mr. Burry and Mr. Ashbourne, received it. I don't know, I am not able to say.

Mr. Chairman How did it come into your possession?

Mr. Higgins From the secretary, Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. Chairman By virtue of the fact that you were a member of the committee?

Mr. Higgins That's right.

Mr. Chairman Well now, while you are on your feet let us try to dispose of this. Is that the property of the Convention, and if not, why not?

Mr. Higgins That's the point. In my opinion it is.

Mr. Smallwood Sir, speaking on that, we have two documents picked and inserted in the Report of the Ottawa Delegation by the Government of Canada. The other is another document altogether. There has been a process of selection carried out by the Government of Canada. If the other document, the one which Mr. Ballam, Mr. Higgins and I received, is tabled, let it be tabled, but on the clear understanding that the official one is the one that is selected by the Government of Canada and put in the Black Book. I don't object to it, but I want the distinction drawn, and when you remember what are the two paragraphs, you will see the necessity for the distinction. Officials are hired men, they are civil servants, employees of the government. Those

officials of Canada are not concerned with politics, or policy. They are not concerned with matters of high level policy, or decision, they merely report on the conditions of a railway. It is the Government of Canada which decides what it will do about that railway should we become a province, therefore the document which is compiled by officials is not official from our standpoint, and the one that is inserted in the report is official, because it is from the Government of Canada.

Mr. Chairman If the Canadian government decides that this is to be regarded as official, I am not quarrelling with the decision of the Canadian government at all.... But that does not mean that information which came to the delegation while in Ottawa from official sources should be kept from members.... If there is other documentary information in the possession of members of that delegation, unless they received it upon the express condition and understanding that they were not to divulge it, I am duty bound to say that it should be made available to us for what it is worth.

Mr. Smallwood And always on the understanding that it was not the final picture. The final picture is in the Black Book.

Mr. Ashbourne Mr. Chairman, that was my understanding sir, about the situation, that at the last plenary session we had with Mr. St. Laurent, that this was the official declaration or documents that we were to take to Newfoundland, and the others, which we received as members of sub-committees, as far as I am concerned myself, were given to us as secret and confidential; and that's as I understand it. Now Mr. Higgins can see how he misunderstood it. He was there at the last meeting.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Ashbourne will agree that up to the point that we came back I was there. We can't have anything secret and confidential from the delegation, surely.

Mr. Chairman It is a matter for members to decide in their own consciences....

Mr. Smallwood All the documents handed to us from time to time had in broad scarlet letters on the cover "Secret" and "Confidential", and I hope that all documents we received from time to time are superseded, and put right out of date, by this official Black Book in two volumes. This is what we go by, together with the Grey Book, which