

before the next month's ration came due. The Commission government made them wait, and with my own eyes I saw hungry men, women and children go off over the hills picking blueberries to make a few cents to keep themselves alive. That was under Commission government. I have seen the Commission government send our police force out with baton in one hand and a gun in the other, against hungry men. Those are unpleasant memories that our people will not soon forget. Oh no, it was not only under responsible government that we had the six cents dole.

I am going to vote in favour of placing these two forms of government before our people, but that does not say that I am going to vote myself for either one of them when the referendum is held. So far as I am concerned, I want something better for our country. I want a form of government that will give our people a break. I want a form of government that will give our people something better than dole when the long-expected world depression hits us again. I am not allowed to say in this present debate what form of government I do want, but I will get that chance a little later.

Mr. McCarthy I do not want to make a speech. I stand to support the motion made by Mr. Higgins that both Commission of Government and responsible government be submitted to the people in the referendum.

Mr. Ballam While we have been debating this resolution this last three or four days, I think everything has been said that could be said. We are getting on to the end of the debate, and I do not want to tire people with tedious repetition.

I am sure all the people in the country know by this time all about the responsible government that we had previous to Commission of Government. They also know now that under this form of government we have to find money to the tune of \$40 million, and that from 80,000 working people, 10,000 of whom are on the dole already. Major Cashin, in his plea for responsible government, figures he can run the country on \$25 million. I do not know where he is going to lop off \$15 million. Somebody will have to want. Instead of lopping off \$15 million, by the looks of things now, he will have to add a little something to the \$40 million we will have to find in order to keep the people alive. All that has been gone over time and time again. Whatever we may

prefer ourselves when it comes to forms of government, we have no alternative but to recommend that these two forms be placed before the people in the referendum. I refer to the two forms mentioned in the motion proposed by Mr. Higgins — responsible government and Commission of Government. This is particularly true of responsible government, and I will tell you why. Whatever else may be or may not be submitted to the people, responsible government has to be submitted, for it is part of the bond, so to speak, that was made years ago.

Mr. Higgins Hear! Hear!

Mr. Ballam We all know that the United Kingdom government made the statement 13 or 14 years ago, that once Newfoundland became self-supporting again they would restore responsible government, if our people requested it. That is a big "if". I have never had any doubt that the British government would honour their pledge. Some people have made out that they had some doubts on this point, or they pretended to have doubts. But there has never been any doubt whatever that the mother country would honour her pledge to us. In fact, that is one of the reasons why Britain is holding the referendum. We should remember, Mr. Chairman, that it is not this Convention or even the Commission of Government that is holding the referendum, but the British government. One of the reasons why Britain is holding the referendum is to give our people the chance to vote for it if they want to. I do not think the people will vote for responsible government — they have had plenty of it before and they know what to expect. But the point is that they can if they wish to, and the referendum is the method that has been arranged to enable them to do it. My belief is that even if this Convention did not recommend responsible government the British government would put it on the ballot. They made us a promise ... and as Britain always keeps her promises, I am convinced that responsible government will be on the ballot, even if this Convention votes against putting it on.

I am strongly in favour of putting Commission of Government on the ballot also. I am not saying that I am strongly in favour of Commission, but only that it should be put on the ballot. I am trying to be fair and reasonable to our people, Mr. Chairman. It is not because I am opposed to