

Secretary of the Commission....

**Mr. Smallwood** Yes, but a conclusion, I hold, utterly without foundation.

**Mr. Chairman** That is another matter.

**Mr. Smallwood** We had a reply here which Mr. Hollett read yesterday, a reply from the Newfoundland government...that in case we became a province, the principals in the bases' treaty would be the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States. That of course is true, because defence is a federal matter. There is a Joint Defence Board of the United States and Canada, and all defence matters relating to Canada and the United States come under that Board — they are acting together as partners in western hemispheric defence. But from that can it be inferred, can it be presumed that Canada would request the United States to withdraw from these 99-year bases? Can it be argued that they would order the United States people to leave Newfoundland so that Canada could place her own troops on that base? And above all can it be presumed that Newfoundlanders working on the bases would lose their jobs? I have a little something here to back up that. If Mr. Higgins or any of the members of the delegation are in the House they will either affirm or deny it. I raised that very question in Canada and we were assured by the Government of Canada that no such thing would happen.

**Mr. Hollett** Is it in the Books?

**Mr. Smallwood** It will be better than in the Books within a matter of weeks. Every Newfoundlander will be assured definitely and finally that under confederation they will go on being employed on the bases as if confederation had never come at all. That will come out.... I have down here a note I made while Mr. Hollett was speaking.

**Mr. Chairman** I am not bound to take notice of your notes; please refer to remarks made by Mr. Hollett in the course of his address.

**Mr. Smallwood** All right, Mr. Hollett in the course of his remarks said that under confederation the town councils would have the right to attach your house, your land, your boats, your fishing gear, even your fur coat.

**Mr. Chairman** He said, "possibly your fur coat".

**Mr. Smallwood** Very well, but the other statement was pretty categorical.... Mr. Hollett has

spoken here this afternoon along the same line. He read from the municipal tax act of Nova Scotia. He might have gone a step further and sent to the various other provinces and found out what powers the provincial legislatures have given the town councils.

**Mr. Hollett** I have.

**Mr. Smallwood** He might have found out what powers the town councils act of Newfoundland gives the town councils. He might have gone still further and found out what powers are given under the municipal charter of St. John's — what authority the municipal council has in St. John's — the taxes on houses, homes, land, shops, goods in the shops and taxes on property generally in the City of St. John's. No, not a word about that. Not a word about the taxes on property in the Windsor area, although he must have known quite a bit about it. He might have found out what the town council in Corner Brook West is permitted to collect. We have 20 town councils — not all functioning yet....

*[Mr. Smallwood gave a list of these town councils]*

And there are ten others in various stages of preparation.

If Newfoundland becomes a province of Canada, Newfoundland will be subject to three governments — some will be subject to two governments. All Newfoundland will be governed in some things by the Government of Canada; in other things it will be the Government of Newfoundland; and they will also be governed by the town councils. When has the federal government of Canada ever collected a dollar or a cent on any kind of property? Never has it collected any taxes on land, houses, property or cattle.

**Mr. Hollett** I did not say they did.

**Mr. Smallwood** I know you did not say it. You had your say, now it is my turn. Never since it began in 1879, never has the federal government collected a cent on farms, homes, or buildings, or boats, or schooners or fish stages.

**Mr. Chairman** There is not a quorum in the House.

**Mr. Hollett** I move we have a recess for five minutes.

**Mr. Smallwood** You cannot make a motion when there is no quorum present.

*[The Secretary summoned members to return,*