

for to the United Kingdom during that period.... Why therefore should I apologise? I am pro-Newfoundland. I am not anti-British.

In the early stages of this Convention, when this confederation matter came up, we passed an amendment to a resolution brought in by the member for Bonavista Centre that until all reports were prepared, there would be no discussion or conversation regarding sending a delegation outside the country. These reports cannot be prepared until we get information from the government in the United Kingdom, because the Commission is not the government. We have asked the Commission government for definite information regarding the economic condition of this country — they have refused that information. We have to go to the only place we can get it....

After Mr. Penney's amendment was passed, we went along fairly smoothly. Finally we come to Mr. Job's motion¹ that we go to Government House to have a discussion with the Commission government. I voted against it. I explained my position in a few remarks which were evidently construed that I was trying to hold up the work of the Convention. But Mr. Job brought in a resolution of some kind regarding the same matter and it was kicked out. We get back from the Commission government the answer that we cannot deal with the United States — it is a matter for diplomatic negotiations. We agreed on that. We get the answer that they are prepared to ask the Dominions Office or the United Kingdom government whether they would receive a delegation from this Convention to discuss matters, and also they would be prepared to ask the Canadian government whether they would be prepared to receive a delegation — not to get or discuss terms, because the answer distinctly states we have no authority to discuss fiscal, financial or economic matters. As I see it, the delegation going to Ottawa would mean going up as postage stamps. We meet the Prime Minister and say, "We are here to find out if you have any offer to make regarding confederation." The Prime Minister of Canada says, "Here, you take that and bring it back. You cannot open it and say whether or not you accept it." We have no authority. There is only one authority — a Newfoundland government has power to discuss con-

federation on behalf of Newfoundland because in 1940-41 they took bases and gave them away to the American government for nothing. If they have power to do that, they also have power to give the country away tomorrow. Therefore as far as the delegation to Ottawa is concerned, I am voting against that motion....

In reading the manifesto of Prime Minister Alderdice and after the assumption of office of Commission government, the people of this country, particularly those in Conception Bay, felt they would never see another hungry day. We were going to sell all the ore; capital was coming into the country; all the money was going to be protected — everything that did come in was well protected — and finally we arrive down to this Convention. How are we going about the fixing-up of Newfoundland? I have stated that it was designed to keep the Commission in office so they could dissipate the treasury and clean out the balance, and I defy any man to bring evidence that that is not so.... When I am asked what evidence I have, my reply is to ask the Commissioner for Finance — he told me so. I repeat, the treasury is being cleaned out deliberately. I make a further forecast, that the policy of the government is to clean out the \$22 million in the Bank of Montreal belonging to the people of Newfoundland and the \$10-12 million on the other side belonging to us....

This delegation to Ottawa is entirely unnecessary. When the delegation comes back from Great Britain, then will be the time to decide whether or not a delegation should go to Ottawa. If that delegation comes back from Great Britain empty-handed; if they say we refuse to cancel any portion of your national debt because of your bases — which they gave away for nothing while acting as trustees. Your legal mind tells you that when anyone dissipates the assets of a trust he goes to jail. What would you say to a government acting as trustee of the assets of Newfoundland, which takes those assets and gives them away for nothing? True, our people got work out of it, and some people are so pro-British and anti-Newfoundland they say our people are not entitled to get the same rates of pay as Canadian and American workmen. They restricted the rates of pay, using the excuse that it would upset the economy, when merchants on Water Street were

¹February 4, 1947, p. 281.