

stores should not have been run in that particular fashion. There is one other point, whether it is consistent for the government to have monies involved in the co-operative movement — I would say not particularly. With regard to the maintenance of the Co-operative Division, when a country spends money to educate its citizens nobody raises much objection, but apparently when they educate the people as to how to make their dollars go further people have a lot of objection....

Mr. Newell I would say that the co-operative movement is open to constructive criticism, and the term ideology as applied to the movement is not one to create embarrassment. History is on the side of this movement, but I am at a loss to understand what particular ideology is being taught by these government-sponsored field workers. The word "ideology" is common currency in the last few years, but I wish people would be careful in the use of it. You get the idea that there is something subversive going on, that you might wake up some morning and find a lot of anarchists on our hands. As far as I know, and I am open to correction, there is no ideology being taught. The money that the government is putting into the co-operative movement it is not putting into individual co-operative societies. A certain amount of money had been previously invested in land settlements' stores, but it is not the practice of the government today to put money into co-operative societies. Any money from now on will be on the same basis as they put it in cold storage companies — loaned as a deal with private business. This \$50,000 that the government is spending on the enhancement of the co-operative movement is to organise adult study groups to see by what means they can help solve their problems and benefit themselves financially.

There should be no more criticism directed at that sort of investment than there is at primary schools or adult education, on which the government has spent \$3 million. It is purely an educational expenditure. It does strike me as rather odd that this Convention, which has hitherto so warmly endorsed the investment of government money in research to develop the fisheries, etc., without any dissent whatever, should suddenly find itself balked because the government is investing \$50,000 in the development of the most impor-

tant resource we have — the people of the country. That's what it amounts to. Actually at the moment, in the estimates of 1946-47, I don't believe there are quite as many people on the staff — not that it matters much, but we might have the records right. There are 16 workers and two stenographers.

Mr. Hickman That was only an estimate.

Mr. Newell Perhaps if we had had more co-operative societies 50 years ago and right down through, certain things that happened in 1933 might never have happened, and this Convention might not be meeting here today.

Mr. Ashbourne I am quite in favour of this co-operative movement. I believe that it is a world-wide movement and viewing its effect in other countries I believe it is in Newfoundland to stay. Whether or not the working out of these co-operative ideas will bring the utmost value to the greatest number remains to be seen, but I think it contains the seed of something which is very essential and valuable to the people. Now with regard to the amount spent, the way I figure it out it is less than 1%. Of course it looks large enough, \$50,000, but I am of the opinion that we want more co-operation in this country all around. A year or two ago there was a firm here that wanted to invest about \$1 million in the building of a powerful steamer to prosecute the seal fishery, and the government was asked to help in that matter by perhaps chartering this boat in the summer to go to the Labrador, quite a place for tourists and probably there would be a good many dollars come into the country if we had suitable boats to take people down around there. That proposition was turned down. Today we are told that around the Labrador there are probably 200,000 seals, a very valuable asset and one of our natural resources. It is not easy to get to these seals by small auxiliary boats, they have not the power for one thing, except when the ice is breaking up and they can get through it. There is a case where if the government had co-operated with that firm, and there are not many firms willing to put \$1 million down, it would be a great benefit to the country. It might be possible, with co-operation in some other way, that plans like that could be worked out....

Mr. Hollett It appears to me that both Mr. Keough and Mr. Newell misunderstood me. I feel that I know something about the co-operative