

whole world in the wrong. Whatever part of the world I have been in there is one thing a government is interested in and it's the tourist trade. If the government of Switzerland had left out the possibility of the tourist trade that country would be in a lot worse condition than she is in today. In fact it's the one thing that makes that country one of the best living countries in the world with the assets that she has got. It's only valleys and mountains, snow and ice, and farming land is at a premium.... There are other countries in the world in the same position....

I think some men on the Committee lifted their eyebrows when I asked Squadron Leader Pattison the potentialities of travelling in Gander, and he said, "I think we don't want them, we have got nothing for them to come to, even people who want to stay over we don't want, because they are something we can't manage because we have no facilities for them." So I don't know, we acquired the Gander very cheaply, but for a country like Newfoundland we acquired the Gander at a sacrifice. Having acquired Gander at a sacrifice, if there was any way it could be made pay, why should they turn their thumbs down on it? I believe people travelling from the old country to the west would stop over for a day or two and have a look at it if the country was interested in it.

I don't hold with Mr. Miller about private capitalisation because I don't believe hotels in this country are going to flourish. It is not the hotel that you have got to look at, it is the dollars that are left behind in the country, and in that way the government has to take hold of it. Perhaps in time, when the country comes up to expectations, people who have come here and had a good time will go back and talk about it, and it may pay just as well as St. Petersburg or Key West. The Government of the United States came in at Key West and took a hold there and built up the road and helped the people. They did not build any hotels, but they came in and helped the people get on their feet, and paid the unemployed people who were starving, fixed the roads and fixed the golf course. I believe that the government should at least spend \$1 million on this. I don't believe it would be lost to the country. When the dollar is spent everybody gets the good of it, in fact one of the reasons that our whole economic system was so bad was that our dollars were not turned

over. All our earnings we received in a chit around the table or an IOU. Anything which takes money out of the country, the Commission of Government is interested in it. They had their concentration camps, or land settlements, yet they could not get a bulldozer to go around and plow up five or six acres of land. Now they have other plans. That has been the policy all through. The Commission of Government wants to stay here while there is a chance. Apparently the country is on its feet now, but by the time they are through with it, perhaps another commission will want to come in.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Higgins properly condemned the discourtesy of the government in the way they treated the Tourist Board, but it would be a pity if the net result of the debate were to concentrate on that side of the matter. The Tourist Board is merely an incident — the thing that matters is tourism; bringing people to Newfoundland and having them spend money. We are hoping the tourist trade will develop in this country. I would like the people to see it as a chance to help the country. Up to the outbreak of war, everything Newfoundland needed she had to import; she paid for everything she received with the money she got from the things she exported. But when the war came, a new element came into the picture. We were not dependent during the war on the money we got from the things we exported to foreign markets; we had new money which the Canadians and Americans paid us for work in building defense bases. That construction has stopped and very little money is coming to Newfoundland today from work on the bases. We are back again to where we were before the war. The big thing about the tourist trade is that it will bring into the country new money. The Commission of Government has this chance of bringing new money into the country, dangling before their very eyes, and they have done nothing about it. So far as they are concerned the tourist trade does not exist. They are not interested in a thing which is going to bring money into Newfoundland. If this report does not put that thought across to the people of Newfoundland, then it is just a waste of words. It is not enough to feel sympathy for the Tourist Board for the way the government has treated them; the thing to be disgusted with is that the government has neglected what is going to be a