

ment the better, if we are to get anything worthwhile out of the great wealth of Labrador.

In view of all the circumstances, Mr. Chairman, all that is necessary now is for us to take over the management of our own affairs, and I feel sure that we have the men capable of doing the job and doing it well. The argument that if we get responsible government back it would mean an almost immediate recession to where we were in 1933, and that we would again be on our knees to the mother country in a few years, is one to which I cannot subscribe in view of our present position, and how that position can be improved under the proper administration. It is the argument of a defeatist and does not smack of the true blood and guts of the Newfoundlander. We have the resources, we have the bargaining power, and above all, we have the men — men of vision and courage, capable of taking this country through whatever the future may hold in store for us. All we need are courage and faith in ourselves, and I think our people have them in abundance.

As far as Commission of Government is concerned, I do not think it can do for us what we can do for ourselves. It was never meant for any freedom-loving people, and it will always remain a black chapter in our history. Admittedly it has done a lot of good for this country — I will not deny that, but in my opinion its sins of omission are very great, too great to be allowed to continue, because they are still continuing. Sufficiently good reasons have been put forward why the present form of administration should not be continued, and it will be only labouring the point if I deal with it any further.

What I have stated with regard to the two forms of government dealt with in this resolution are strictly my own views, and are perhaps not likely to be shared by many people. Therefore, in fairness to them, I am going to vote for these two forms of government to be submitted to the people, and for them to make their own decision. I feel sure that we shall be leaving the decision in safe hands. It gives me much pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to support the resolution.

Mr. Kennedy Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, in rising to offer my support to the motion now before the Chair, may I at the same time register my regret that its straightforward implication could not have been adopted some 20 months ago. However, this Convention, despite its

shortcomings, has served to enlighten many, and particularly us of the younger generation, whose privilege as so-called free people has been to fight, but never to vote.

It is not shame that I as one of this younger generation feel when reviewing the institution of Commission of Government, but a sense of mild impatience mingled perhaps with disgust, that our leaders at that time were unable to find a solution that preserved independence, as did practically all other world governments who were under no less burden or stress. As one of the thousands who in those dark days was privileged in being only a child, I still ask, was default at that time, under similar circumstances, merely the privilege of the great? We paid with the loss of our independence for a type of honour that our illustrious neighbours did not hesitate in foregoing. Experience is something which cannot be bought with dollars, nor at all times with honour; but must be paid for in suffering, either mental, physical or spiritual.

Looking back over the past 20 months with a mind unwarped as far as personal politics and egotistical greed are concerned, I think I can safely say that this Newfoundland in her short parliamentary history of, all told, less than a century has suffered no more bitterly from mistakes and pitfalls than most countries have done. We have been, and in spite of drastic improvements still are a pioneering people and country, who unlike older nations are able truly to say that our resources are only now being tapped. Let any government we may elect benefit from the history and mistakes of her predecessors, and not lurch into the future with a sense of frustration and inferiority on account of what has gone before. We have been told directly by the past Commissioner for Finance, the Hon. Mr. Wild, that we are a self-supporting country. I will accept that statement from an expert, and will wrangle with no rough estimates or so-called guess budgets of amateurs.

Fish, paper and iron ore — these are commodities for which the whole world is hungry, but unfortunately at present only dollar areas are in a position to purchase to our advantage. Facing fact again, Canada does not need our fish. America does. We need commodities which are obtainable in either of these countries. Is it common sense to pay in precious dollars to Canada for what our