

who wants to have an opportunity to vote for retention of Commission of Government or some modification of it — he is entitled to have that chance, even if he should happen to be my last forgotten fisherman on the Bill of Cape St. George. And I do hereby give solemn warning to the members of this Convention that the names of all of us will go down to historic dishonour, if we do not prove as solicitous for the wishes of that last forgotten fisherman on the Bill of Cape St. George, as for the wishes of Mr. Joseph Smallwood, or Major Peter Cashin or anybody else in this Convention or anybody else in this island. On that score too, Mr. Chairman, we who are gathered here cannot escape the verdict of history.

Mr. VardyI support both the spirit and words of this motion. When it first came in my mind to represent the district of Trinity North the sending of certain delegations seemed to me unavoidable. Now some have suggested leaving the matter of a delegation to Ottawa until the results of a delegation to England are examined. They argue that the terms from England may be so good that it may not be necessary to send a delegation to Ottawa. I can do no more than assure this Convention that there is no member here more anxious to find that this may be so. If it is, what has anyone opposed to it got to worry about, because the people of Newfoundland, you can rest assured, will vote for what in their opinion they consider best....

I am not going to take up any more of our valuable time than is really necessary, but I would just take you back for a few moments to 1932. I was the only independent candidate in the 1932 election. Just prior to going to the district a gentleman who is now living, and undoubtedly will hear my voice tonight, gave me a letter of introduction to go to the then acting Prime Minister, with the suggestion that I go to the same district that I eventually faced but for that party. I spent about two hours in that interview, and asked for their platform as a result of my determination to do all possible to prevent Newfoundland from losing her franchise. I told that gentleman,¹ who is now passed on, that I regretted that I could not, under any circumstances accept his offer, but was going to face the

District of Trinity North as an independent. I was not admired by my own family or friends for taking such a stand. It is well remembered in the District of Trinity North that I said from every platform that I stood on, that they were going to be sold like cattle on the auction block. I had as my authority the well-remembered words of the acting Prime Minister, when he assured me that he could not take the risk of going back to the people, that the Prime Minister that he had succeeded² could not under any circumstances be given charge of this country again, he was branded as a crook. He came to the railway station when I went out with my manifesto, and he asked me to destroy it and come back and have another one printed. He followed me in his car to Manuels and I still refused, and I have never regretted it.

As far as Commission of Government is concerned I have tried to give them full credit for everything they have done. I took the trouble to write them a letter a few days ago congratulating them in connection with what they have done for the farmers of this country. Everything good I have seen I have taken occasion to remind them of it, and everything they did to the detriment of the people of this country and their liberty as well. I have never felt that those who associated with the Commission of Government went with that body for any other reason except to enrich their pockets at the expense of the people. I remind this House that as a much younger man than the gentleman who spoke a few minutes ago I served in the first war, and was held up on account of my age in the last war, being wounded at least four times in both wars. But as sure as I gave all I had for the purpose of saving this island home, just as sure I would most willingly give all that's left of me for what I consider to be the best for this country. I have been dragged through the mud by the Commission of Government. They have attempted to bribe me (I hope they are listening). As long as I hold my head up I will defend this country in the way I think will be to the best interests of the people coming after me. My boys served in the war as well as myself, and I do not have to make any apology for saying this, and I hope no one who thinks differently towards this motion will at any time accuse me of being dis-

¹F.C. Alderdice.

²R.A. Squires.