

runs its own show in so many things, and the federal government runs the rest. I suppose it would take us all a little while to get used to it, but I don't doubt that we would get used to it. We Newfoundlanders are famous for being able to adapt ourselves pretty quickly. We're a smart bunch of people. When it was proposed to change the rule of the road in Newfoundland last year, and make all the cars and trucks drive to the right, some people prophesised all kinds of accidents and deaths. But it turned out all right. And although we've only been a short year driving to the right, and we drove to the left for over half a century, we're so used to it now that we never even think of it. That's how it would be with confederation. It looks like a pretty big jump for us to take right now, but we'd get used to it....

The way I look at this confederation idea, Mr. Chairman, is simply you have to think of the majority. It's not what would suit a few but what would suit the many. I suppose some people might be hurt a little by confederation — I see my friend Mr. Hickman smiling over there — especially at the start. I would not be glad to see anybody hurt. But what comes first is the welfare of the many, and perhaps a very few would be hurt anyway.... There's another thing I like about this confederation idea, and that's the fact that it will give us political democracy. We mustn't forget that. It would give us political democracy, just the same as responsible government would give it. I can see Major Cashin now up in the Houses of Parliament up in Ottawa, the Minister of Finance of that great big Dominion of Canada, not a little place like this.

I suppose all of us would be inclined to give the Commission government system credit where they deserve it, and they do deserve some credit. We've said some very hard things here about the Commission of Government, but we must admit that they have done some good and they're deserving of a little credit. I'm not swinging on the Commission government gate either.... But I'm ready to give praise where praise is due. But we've all got to be sensible about these things. In the spring we'll all be going in to vote for a form of government we want, for the form of government we want for our country in the future. And I think most thinking men know very well that we can't decide that we'll have the Commission of Government here forever. It was never meant to

stay here. Commission government gives us no voice at all in our public affairs, while confederation at least will give us better democratic government. We'll not only elect our seven members to the House of Commons in Ottawa, but we'll also elect our own House of Assembly. It is true that our House of Assembly wouldn't have the whole show to run, but still it will have plenty to do. We will be electing our own government and we'll also be helping to elect a government for the whole federal union. I won't go any further, Mr. Chairman, with this line of argument, because you'll probably have to rule me out of order. Anyway, one of the things I noticed about this confederation idea is that it will bring back to us a democratic form of government after a long and perhaps painful absence. Mr. Chairman, I have purposely kept away from discussing details of these confederation terms because they have been drawn over so often by everybody that I'm sure they've been worn out. And we don't want the people in the country to forget about it just yet. I can assure you that we all appreciate the fact that they were handled very ably by Mr. Smallwood.... So there's nothing further that I would add just now. For about five weeks we've been debating these details and I guess the Convention and the country have a fair idea of them by this time. I regard the terms as fair and attractive. I think that under confederation we would get a square deal. I think our country would go ahead. I think our people would be better off and I think most of our families would live better and that, like Mr. Keough said, is the most important thing of all. That is the thing which we're to decide. I think the people will know how to decide this fact. One last thing I want to emphasise. We may decide to join up with Canada. If we do, we would become Canadian citizens, and Canada would be one great nation stretching from St. John's right out to Vancouver. We'd become Canadian citizens, but we'd never cease to be Newfoundlanders. That would be impossible. To us Newfoundland will always be home. To us Newfoundlanders it will always come first. And if in the referendum I cast my vote for confederation, it will not be for Canada's sake but for the sake of the generations yet unborn here in our own island home.

Mr. Fowler I have listened long and patiently to the confederates and the anticonfederates express