

Honourable the Commissioner for Justice, whether, in the event of Newfoundland becoming a Canadian province, it will void and annul section 45 of the Labrador Mining and Exploration Act of 1938, which states, "Except where it is necessary for the Company to employ technical experts, the Company shall at all times employ Newfoundland workmen, provided same shall be available"?

I also ask the Commissioner for Justice what effect, if any, the entry of Newfoundland into union with Canada will have upon article II of the agreement made between Canada and Newfoundland on air transport dated 29 July 1946, which article provides that wherever possible priority shall be given to citizens of Newfoundland in the employment of labour at the airfield at Goose Bay.

**Mr. Hollett** I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask His Excellency the Governor to seek clarification from the Government of the United Kingdom on the following point: under the Leased Bases Agreement, 1941, it was stipulated that upon the resumption by Newfoundland of the constitutional status held prior to the 16 February 1934, the contracting parties would be the Government of the USA and the Government of Newfoundland. What would be the position should Newfoundland enter into confederation with Canada? Would the contracting parties under said agreement be the Government of the USA and the provincial government of Newfoundland, or otherwise? And if otherwise, to inform this Convention as to the real position which will exist.

**Mr. Smallwood** In connection with one of the questions of Major Cashin, when he asked how much money was paid for the Grand Trunk Railway etc., that now make up the CNR — I wonder if he meant the purchase price? I think it would make it clearer if he said that.

**Mr. Cashin** Mr. Chairman, while we are on this point of questions, I think there are many questions which I put on the order paper that the delegation has answers to, and we have not got them. They are not contained in the Grey Book or Black Books, or any other book. I wonder if we are just wasting time in asking them, or if we are going to get copies of meetings, etc. that the delegation had with the Canadian government when they were in Ottawa. It would certainly

expedite the business if we had this information, such as the information as to the per capita debt of Canada, the national debt of Canada. I take it that when they were discussing affairs with the Canadian government they talked about what the Canadian debt was, and what the provincial debt was; I have asked questions on that and it does not appear in the books, and I was wondering if that information is not in the possession of the delegates to Ottawa.

**Mr. Smallwood** Yes, it is.

**Mr. Cashin** If that is so, why has it not been tabled for the information of this Convention?

**Mr. Chairman** I quite agree, Mr. Cashin. I have to sustain you on that point.

**Mr. Cashin** When we came back from England the House went wild because we were told to keep our records confidential, and we passed a motion here asking the British government to release them, and they did release them, and every delegate here was given a copy of the three meetings we had in London, a transcript of the actual discussion, and we have not had anything in that connection from the Ottawa delegation. I hold that we are entitled to it, if there is any such thing in existence. There is nothing secret, so far as this Convention is concerned, regarding the discussion in Ottawa.

**Mr. Chairman** With one possible qualification, Mr. Cashin, I must sustain you on that point.... Unless and until I am shown some good and sufficient reason as to how and why any information coming into the possession of the Ottawa delegation should be withheld from this Convention, then I am definitely going to sustain Major Cashin by holding that it is the property of the Convention. That is all I can do about it. That is what I propose to do.

**Mr. Smallwood** I just remarked to Major Cashin that we have a memorandum on the public debt of Canada.... We have that, and certainly there is nothing secret about the public debt of Canada, and there is no reason, now that we remember that we have it, why it should not be mimeographed for all members of the Convention, and in the meanwhile Major Cashin or any member could make use of it for all I can see.

**Mr. Cashin** Mr. Chairman, in connection with all these documents that might be in the possession of the delegation from Ottawa, I hold that any documents are the property of this Conven-