

that these statements were made here by members of the Convention and I draw the attention of the members and the country to it.... I make the statement that only two years ago the Prime Minister of Quebec made a statement in the legislature of Quebec that Newfoundland should hand over Labrador to Canada; and, incidentally, to the Province of Quebec because they had sent Canadian troops down here to defend Newfoundland and the troops, or a lot of them were zombies, and our own boys had to be sent to Italy. I resent it as a returned soldier of two wars. Big corporations in Canada are now making efforts to steal the Labrador from Newfoundland. I do not know whether these same individuals offered senatorships and trips to Ottawa, but I know that it is going on. Confederation has been an issue in this country since the inception of responsible government nearly 100 years ago. We had it in 1865, again later, and in 1895, and now confederation is being brought up again. From 1923 on, someone was up spouting off that the other chap was a confederate, and here we have it again. Now we are discussing the possibility of sending a delegation to Ottawa. The Chairman has given his decision that the Convention has power to send a delegation. Certainly the Convention has power to send a delegation provided the Ottawa government receives them. But I want to draw the attention of this assembly to this fact, that even if they go to Ottawa, we have no guarantee that we are going to have even a plebiscite under this Convention Act. If there is I want someone to show it to me. We are told that we are here to dig out facts and figures, and recommend certain forms of government to the United Kingdom, which will be submitted to the people. When? Whenever they feel like it. That's the answer.

Now what is the actual situation? In 1933 a resolution was passed in this House requesting the British government to take over Newfoundland because of its financial situation. I hold that our people should have defaulted and not have handed over our constitution. But they did make one provision, that when this country became self-supporting, responsible government would be restored at the request of the people. Well, we represent the people here this afternoon, and if anyone goes to Ottawa tomorrow and brings back the terms of confederation, and it is submitted to

the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom cannot amend that original act of 1933, because there is no House of Assembly here to guarantee that amendment. It would have to be adopted by our Newfoundland government if an amendment to that 1933 act has to be made. Is the United Kingdom government going to break the law it passed in 1933? Certainly not. Then there are only two forms of government we have to consider in this country, Commission of Government and responsible government. There is no such thing in this act as confederation, or representative government, or commission. There are people in this country who are Communistic. I had just as much right, if I was a Communist, to get a delegation to go to Moscow and ask Joseph Stalin what kind of government or terms he would give us. I can't understand how young Newfoundlanders can come here and say they want terms from another country. I cannot understand it.

The facts are in the Auditor General's report for 1944-45, and all the reports that are going to be brought in here won't alter the fact. The longer we are going on here the less money we will have. The treasury is being cleaned out, gentlemen. I make the bold statement that the treasury of Newfoundland is being looted, and I defy any man in the country to contradict that statement. The idea is, to loot her until the last dollar is gone, and then it will be confederation or Commission or something else. That's the programme, and Mr. Smallwood knows it is. Now in 1895 a delegation went to Ottawa to talk confederation with the Dominion of Canada, and our debt at that time was some \$15 million. The Dominion of Canada came back to that delegation and said, "Look, our debt is \$50 per head (that's Canada's debt, ours was \$10 per head). We will allow you \$50 per head of your debt (at that time our population was not anything like it is today). Our debt will then amount to \$10 million, and the other \$5 million you will have to carry as a provincial debt." Naturally the Newfoundland people turned it down cold. But Canada balked at \$5 million at that time. What is the situation today? The situation today is that our per capita debt is less than \$150, that is when you take the sinking fund and our cash on hand at the present time, which I hold should have been cancelled in 1940-41, but granted that it was not cancelled, our total nation-