

the Convention as a whole, and not merely from one member and I wonder if Mr. Hollett meant it to be that way, or was that a thought that he did not have in mind at all?

Mr. Higgins All questions come from the Convention, sir.

Mr. Hollett Mr. Chairman, if I might reply to that. As you know, the question arises from a meeting of the Steering Committee, which was held yesterday afternoon, and that Committee agreed such information should be obtained. I therefore felt it was proper that the enquiry should be laid on the table to be passed on to the Department of External Affairs. I left it therefore to your discretion, as to whether it should go or not. That's why I worded it that way.

Mr. Chairman Well, Mr. Hollett, and Mr. Smallwood, obviously the final pronouncement upon the matter must of necessity be made by the Information Committee, and anything I say at this time is not necessarily binding upon its members. As I see this question, Mr. Smallwood, I see nothing whatever the matter with it. It begins with the covering words, "I give notice that I will on tomorrow...", and then it goes on to say, "Now therefore will the said Department of External Affairs inform the National Convention...." Here is information sought by a member of the Convention to be placed before the Convention as a whole. I don't see how this can be construed as being a request from the Convention.

Mr. Smallwood No, sir. Read on a little further if you will.

Mr. Chairman "Now therefore will the Department of External Affairs inform the National Convention...\$9,400,000."

Mr. Smallwood Yes sir, read on a little further.

Mr. Chairman That's all there is to it.

Mr. Smallwood My understanding was that the Convention desires to know something, that those words appear in it. Not the questioner, but the Convention.

Mr. Chairman No, unless I am reading the thing altogether wrong. Here is a question....

Mr. Smallwood Sir, I am not objecting to the question, you understand. As I heard it read, there occurred in it words to the effect the the Convention desired certain information.

Mr. Chairman No, put simply Mr. Hollett requests the Department of External Affairs, through His Excellency the Governor, to furnish

this Convention with certain information. *He* requests it. He requests that certain information be forwarded to this Convention. That cannot possibly be construed as a request from the Convention *in toto*.... The final say upon the question rests with the Information Committee, but at the moment I see nothing wrong with it.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman, isn't it properly a question for the Information Committee?

Mr. Chairman Yes, except that Mr. Hollett has asked me to express an opinion at this time; and also arising out of the point raised by Mr. Smallwood, I felt I might go beyond my job and express my opinion on it. The matter will come before the Information Committee tomorrow, as I said before.

Mr. Miller Mr. Chairman, I am not quite right on the powers of the Information Committee. Maybe I have developed an entirely different opinion of what its powers were; but as I remember, its duties were to see that there was no repetition of questions. Not only that, but they would direct the questions to the proper division of government, or to the proper government in this case, and, as I remember it, that is as far as their authority went.

Mr. Chairman You are wrong on the second point. The Information Committee can be responsible for directing specifically requested information into the hands of any particular official or officials.

Mr. Miller Well, sir, that's how I remember it. Some questions might be termed "double-barrelled", and the Committee were to send the relevant portion to one department and the same with the balance to the other department; but as I see it they have no power whatever to interfere in any questions that are put by the delegates to this Convention, and that is what is happening.

Mr. Chairman I don't know what you mean by interfering. This Information Committee was appointed, I understand, by my predecessor, Mr. Justice Fox, at the request of the government, who decided that there had to be some sort of a sifting arrangement set up. In fact, if I am properly informed, they declined to answer or to deal with any questions unless they were first dealt with by a sub-committee of the Convention. To that end an Information Committee was appointed by Mr. Justice Fox, and its duty is to avoid repetition and to otherwise facilitate the