

tion is a formal assembly and the elected representatives with the Chairman form the convention when assembled for the performance of the function assigned by the act. The Convention will have completed its function with the making of recommendations as to possible forms of future government to be put before the people at the national referendum and will thereupon cease to exist as a convention or assembly. It therefore follows that, after completion of the function set forth in the act, any meetings of representatives with the Chairman would not be sessions of the National Convention.

In these circumstances legislation is not

necessary for the purpose of terminating the National Convention, and I have so advised the government.

Yours faithfully,

A.J. Walsh

Commissioner for Justice and Defense.

....The motion before the Chair is that this Convention recommend to the United Kingdom government that the wishes of the people of Newfoundland be ascertained at the earliest possible moment as to whether it is their desire that responsible government as it existed in Newfoundland prior to its suspension in 1934, be restored; or that the present form of government be continued.

**Motion to recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the wishes of the People of Newfoundland be ascertained as to whether it is their desire that Responsible Government be restored or Commission of Government be continued**

**Mr. Cashin** Mr. Chairman, as I moved the adjournment of this debate yesterday afternoon I take it I am entitled to the floor this afternoon, but Mr. McCormack, who has to go out of town this afternoon, has asked that I yield the floor to him first, and on the understanding that I can have it next I am prepared to do that.

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. McCormack spoke of it to me, and it is of very great importance to him, and I think the House would have no objection.

**Mr. McCormack** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In speaking in support of this motion I might say that our Letters Patent of 1934, wherein we were promised the return of our former status on the request of the people when we again became self-supporting, has caused me considerable perplexity, especially in the early days of this Convention when we heard so much talk of the constitutionality of almost everything before the Chair. At that time I was quite concerned, and was most desirous to have the constitutional angles ironed out, and as yet I fail to see why some of our legal minds did not have the position clarified for the benefit of the electorate. However, this issue appears to have disappeared with the disappearance of the constitutional expert, Professor Wheare.

Mr. Chairman, the electorate of this country is awakening to that political interest which was drugged into insensibility during 14 years of non-representative government, and I feel that this

much criticised Convention will have fully justified its existence if it thoroughly awakens in our people a realisation of the purposes and duty of government. Incidentally I feel that this Convention, with all its shortcomings, has been unduly censured. We were given a job that usually requires experts and expected to do it without the necessary assistance and co-operation that experts usually receive. However, we are about to finish our work and in a short while the people will be asked to register their decision on the form of government they desire, and in my opinion it should be made as easy and clearcut as possible, it being our duty to give them a factual and true position.

Under the motion we are to concern ourselves with two forms of government—responsible and commission, and I wish to say that it is my conviction that the people of the district which I have the honour to represent are concerned with *only* these two forms, and because of the small minority who have mistaken ideas about the latter form—commission government—I choose to deal with that first. I would point out to these few that, to use a very common and oft-repeated expression, government by commission has outlived its usefulness. Granted we were in a position of default in 1933—so were others. Anyway, it was fine to have Britain underwrite our obligations, but in giving credit where it is due, we must also realise that in making a com-