

during late years.

Now two members of the recent delegation have decided that, as elected members, they have the power to keep back knowledge from the very men that voted to send them to England. I was elected into a position of trust by my district as were all other members, and in such a position I demand here and now to know why two members have the right to withhold any knowledge that we sent them out to get....

**Mr. Higgins** Mr. Chairman, following the remarks a few moments ago by Mr. Smallwood, I wonder if you would enlighten the Convention, as well as myself, on that part of the memorandum in which the British authorities were asked as to forms of government, and the answer you brought back that forms of government other than responsible government and retention of Commission could be recommended. What I want to know is, were federal unions discussed, and did you get permission, or were you advised that federal union is a proper form of government that this Convention could recommend?

**Mr. Chairman** I am not certain whether the term "federal union" was mentioned at all.

**Mr. Higgins** Well, confederation, or anything of that nature?

**Mr. Chairman** I cannot remember whether anything meaning that was discussed.... Probably some other gentleman can tell you that.

**Mr. Hollett** The point raised by Mr. Higgins was definitely dealt with by the delegation in the conversations, and that is one of the points which I made yesterday, that you cannot get a true perspective on that report without knowing exactly what was said. It is all very well for Lord Addison to sit down and write an answer to a question. It is quite another thing when that person is asking questions thereon and getting replies. I still maintain ... that the Convention which sent us over there should have the right of access to the conversations which took place between the delegates and Lord Addison and Dominions Office. I say that with due regard to the rule made by you yesterday, and I have a right to disagree with any rule. I trust we are still democratic in this country.

**Mr. Chairman** The simplest way is to ask Dominions Office if there is any objection to the disclosure of that information. The arrangement was made that these documents would not be

disclosed, and we cannot do so without the consent of the other party.

**Mr. Hollett** I maintain that that was only so that we could not have newspaper reporters in here. That was the meaning. It was never meant that the delegation which was sent over by this Convention should keep things from the members of this Convention.

**Mr. Chairman** The only way is to enquire from Lord Addison what he meant. My clear understanding is that these things were to be kept secret.

**Mr. Hollett** Have you read these yourself?

**Mr. Chairman** I have never seen them.

**Mr. Hollett** Might I suggest that before you give a final decision you peruse these stenographic notes? I am prepared after that to accept your ruling, if there is anything which you feel should not be put before the Convention, but not otherwise. I am not prepared to accept a ruling by anybody on something he does not know anything about, which he has never read.

There has been an impression given by some members which is wrong. Great Britain is not by any means starving. Great Britain is not on her back.... True, she is somewhat crippled and scarred and bruised, but when a country like Great Britain can, within the last two years, give out freely, and without any hope of ever getting it back, \$300,000 million to various European and Asiatic countries, that country is not broke. It is merely a matter of the upsetting of currency.... I don't want this Convention to get the idea that Great Britain is so poverty-stricken as some people would have you believe. I have every faith in the British Empire. I have no doubts whatsoever that the empire to which we belong, and for which Kennedy and others of you fought, will not go down.... I referred yesterday to the treatment we got in 1933 to 1940. That is not the treatment of the English or Irish or Scotch people. It was the treatment of the people in Dominions Office, who know no more about this country than they know about Burma, India and other countries that have been under British rule. One man in that Dominions Office wanted to know where we sent our saltfish — was it to Belgium or Holland? There's nothing wrong with the English, Irish or Scotch people. They know nothing whatever about the political position in this country. We have never publicised it enough ourselves. We