

or Government House or anywhere else today.

Mr. Chairman I have no jurisdiction over members directing their criticisms towards the government or any members of the government, but I would suggest that members keep themselves within the limits of fair comment.

Mr. Cashin The 1943 retroactive income tax legislation, would you call that honest?

Mr. Chairman We are not trying the Commission government here at all. We are not a jury.

Mr. Cashin I am prepared to take them on as a jury.

Mr. Chairman You are not trying them now.

Mr. Cashin I am giving my views in connection with the Commission of Government during the past seven or eight years.

Mr. Chairman Let us hope you will not be called upon to prove your statements.

Mr. Cashin I have proven them. All of us who have given any thought to the matter, all of us who have approached the question in a spirit of sincerity and patriotism, will realise that once we get the control of our own affairs, the financial and economic doors of the world will be open to us. But without self-government, all doors but one will close in our faces. And if we enter that one door, which Heaven forbid, it will clang behind us with the awful finality of the prison portals which closes behind him who has said goodbye to freedom forever. Whether Newfoundland enters that dungeon cell to serve a life sentence, or whether she takes her place as a proud dominion amongst the free peoples of the world, is for our people to say. And knowing them as I do, I am convinced that we can safely leave the final verdict in their hands.

Mr. Chairman Before giving you the floor, Mr. Keough, I would like to direct the attention of members at this time to standing order 39 which reads: "In discharging its duty to make recommendations to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, as to possible forms of future government to be placed before the people in a national referendum, the Convention shall include in its report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs the opinion of each several member of the Convention as to the form or forms of government which, in his opinion, should be put before the people, together with any preference which he may choose to express as between one form of government and

another."

It is therefore the duty of this Convention to record the opinion of each member of the Convention on two points: (1) As to the form of government which, in his opinion should be put before the people of Newfoundland, together with (2) any preference he may choose to express.

I simply mention the rule at this time because there is a double-barreled motion before the Chair. The motion covers responsible government and Commission government. It may very well be that some members may have a preference as between the two forms of government, and therefore would perhaps be hesitant in expressing their views by virtue of the fact that in supporting the motion, they would be supporting one form of government with which he or they did not find themselves in agreement. I want to make it clear. I propose by a series of polls or divisions on this motion to find out, first, the members voting for or against the motion, and secondly ... it will be my duty to carry out the order to have their views recorded on both questions. Therefore, any member desiring to support this motion will not be precluded from expressing his preference as to either of the two forms contained in the motion. Indeed, it is the other way about. It is the duty of the Convention, after and when a member votes for the motion, to decide whether or not he has any preference for either of the two forms of government contained in the motion.

Mr. Smallwood Would that polling be done after adoption or otherwise of the present motion or after the adoption or otherwise of both motions on the order paper?

Mr. Chairman I am not certain at the moment; but my intention is to ask for a brief meeting of the drafting committee — they have to draft the report and I want to facilitate them if I can. As far as I am concerned, you could very well have discharged your duties under standing order 39 without bothering to decide the matter at all. I could simply ask members to stand up and ask who has any preference.

Mr. Bradley Would you mind reading section 39 again?

[The Chairman read standing order 39]

Mr. Chairman I read it this way: in its report, the Convention shall include: