

pose a certain course of conduct is carried out; to carry that into effect, I will avail myself of my rights to appoint a special committee for that purpose. I might be put in a position where I would have to appoint a committee when members could accomplish the very same thing. If I am forced to do it, I certainly will appoint a Special committee to deal with future procedure of the matter now before the Chair.

Mr. Smallwood I am agreeable to the Steering Committee, but I would say that any suggestion or any decision should be a decision by the Convention, and not the Steering Committee. That is turning it into something it was never intended to be.

Mr. Higgins The Convention has to make the decision.

Mr. Chairman You are anticipating too much. I am asking the Steering Committee to meet me for the purpose of discussing matters which have arisen this evening and which are not going to be resolved unless and until some course of procedure is adopted.

To that end, therefore, the members of the Steering Committee, not as a Steering Committee at all, but rather in the status of an advisory committee are asked to meet me in the endeavour to try and find some means whereby the Convention members may be facilitated in the discharging of the duties assigned to them, in particular in regard to the business now before the Chair. Surely there is nothing wrong about that. We will meet to consider and recommend. I have not attempted to force anything on this Convention. Recommendations will be made; if the Convention sees fit to adopt them, all right; if they see fit to throw them out, well and good.

Mr. Higgins I move the adjournment until 3 pm Thursday.

Mr. Job I second it.

Mr. Smallwood I give notice I will not be at the Steering Committee. I am absolutely opposed to it. *[The motion carried 25-7, and the Convention adjourned]*

December 4, 1947

[Mr. Cashin gave notice that he would ask the Commissioner of Finance for detailed statements of revenue by source for the fiscal year 1946-47; and for a comparison of Newfoundland and Canadian tobacco and excise taxes, and postal and telegraph rates. He also gave notice to ask the Canadian government at which rate it would tax amounts received by beneficiaries of life insurance policies]

Mr. Hollett I give notice that I will on tomorrow lay on the table the following enquiry directed to the Canadian Department of External Affairs, through His Excellency the Governor, that is to say:

Whereas under Annex IV, page 16, of the Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland Into Confederation dated at Ottawa, Canada, October 30, 1947, under heading "Probable Expenditures",¹ and passed to this Convention by His Excellency the Governor, there is an item titled "Other Departmental Expenditures, \$9,400,000" which it is understood is meant to take care of the cost of extending existing services to Newfoundland in a typical year should Newfoundland enter into confederation;

Now Therefore will the said Department of External Affairs inform this National Convention at the earliest possible moment as to the following:

Are the "existing services" referred to those outlined under heading "Public Services provided by Canada", sections 3 to 6 inclusive, excepting always of course, section 4 sub-section (1) and (2) and section 5 sub-section (1)? If so, what are the allocations in respect of each several service? Or generally, it is desired that an understandable breakdown be made of the amount of \$9,400,000.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, the wording adopted by Mr. Hollett in that question of which he gives notice is different from that used in the other questions. All other questions up to this one have been as from some member of the Convention. This one puts it as from the Convention itself. I have wondered, with regard to all the questions to be forwarded to the Government of Canada, whether those were to be regarded as having come from the Convention or from individual members. In the case of Mr. Hollett's question, it is so worded as to have it come from

¹Volume II:520.