

vited here. I asked to have the word "private" cancelled and the word "public" put in.

Mr. Chairman It has been moved by Mr. Cashin and seconded by Mr. Jackman that the words in the motion by Mr. Ashbourne and seconded by Mr. Vardy, after the words "committee as a whole", "in private session" be deleted, and the words "public session" be substituted.

[The motion carried]

Mr. Cashin Is it in order to move that the Hon. Mr. Wild be invited to address the Convention in public session at 4 o'clock tomorrow?

Mr. Ashbourne I understood he was not prepared to come.

Mr. Chairman The motion is that the Hon. Mr. Wild be invited to address this Convention in public session at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

[The motion carried]

Mr. Chairman An invitation will be extended to the commissioner accordingly. I anticipate what his reply is going to be.

I want to appoint, now, the steering committee, or business committee. Only seven can be appointed and there is no insidious distinction drawn.

The committee will consist of:

Messrs. Cashin,
 Bradley,
 Brown,
 Hollett,
 Higgins,
 Fudge,
 Ashbourne.

I suggest that Mr. Bradley be the convenor of that committee and that it meet without delay.

There is another committee of very great importance, and that is the library committee. We need to have available to the members of this Convention reference and data of all kinds referable to the legislature and public affairs of the colony. We had a well-balanced, invaluable legislative library. That library no longer exists, as we knew it. It may be there are some of those books held by the public library, but to what extent, I do not know. I do feel there is an urgent necessity to restore that library as well as for the immediate information of members of this convention, as also out of veneration for the past, and I think we should make a beginning and get all the books we can belonging to that library and put

them back, as the first step. The first duty is the restoration of that library to serve your needs as well as to safeguard invaluable manuscripts belonging to the legislature of this colony.

Mr. Brown Is it a fact that the books have been taken out of this House?

Mr. Chairman Yes.

Mr. Brown That is a crime. I remember the first day I held office here. The librarian, Miss Morris, sent down for me to come to the library. She asked me to pass down the first book on the top shelf. I passed it down and she said, "Open it, you will see the name of your great-grandfather there, one of the first members of responsible government." I would not like to know today that these books had been destroyed. It is criminal to destroy the library and I would not like to say what should be done with the person or persons who destroyed it. I do not know of a more important committee than this, to seek out and bring back the books belonging to this House. I move that that committee be appointed.

Mr. Reddy I have pleasure in seconding that motion.

[The motion carried]

Mr. Chairman The committee shall consist of Messrs. Smallwood, Ashbourne, Harrington, Ballam and Hickman. That completes the order of the day.

Mr. Smallwood I move the following resolution: That we request the government to appoint to the Convention a competent statistician-economist to enable us the better to assess the financial and economic condition and prospects of the country.

We have appointed already to the Convention an authority on constitutional history, practice, and theory in the person of Professor Wheare of Oxford University. Up to the present time, perhaps for weeks or months, the Convention may not be able to make as much use of his particular knowledge and advice as it will have to do when we get to the question of considering particular types of government. In the meantime the job of the Convention as it is beginning to emerge very plainly now, is going to be one of gathering, compiling and assessing data of an economic and financial character. Speaking for myself, I have made a profession — in part earned my living — by collecting statistics and facts about Newfoundland trade and industry, but I confess frank-