

tens of thousands of people around the island that like him, and some of them like me too. I would like to show him some letters I get saying, "Get together with Cashin, you ought to be friends". That finance business looks bad, I can't understand that game, but don't forget this — if they have stuck in a couple of million dollars to pay for these steamers in their budget, if they don't pay it this year they must pay it next year.

Mr. Cashin Tell where that money is coming from.

Mr. Hollett I rise to a point of order. Is this a conversation between this member and the member from St. John's West?

Mr. Chairman Major Cashin, strictly speaking, is our of order, but I will let it go.

Mr. Smallwood Don't let's get too formal Mr. Chairman, or we will be thinking that we are the Government. I agree with Major Cashin in this. I hope they are not going to dip into our surplus of \$28 million. We have got that nest egg, and that's all we have to show for the war and I hope they are not dipping into that....

Mr. Miller Mr. Chairman, before you proceed with notice of motion there is one point I would like to be satisfied on. Since it seems necessary to be known by certain names I suggest that I be known as "the very brief speaker." There are only two things necessary here and that is clarity and consistency. My friend from Bonavista stated last fall and reiterated today, and very emphatically, that we could not approach the United States on this tariff question. I am not doubting his word at all, but I am going to refer you to the fifth line in the paragraph that deals with clause one,¹ which was in reference to the tariff question.... Now that's a report back to us from the Commission of Government. Am I to believe that the Commission would not hazard an opinion as to whether or not we could do this? Why don't they give us a clear understandable answer that it could or could not be done? This is a masterpiece of discreetness. I would accept it with better grace if I did not think it was in part subscribed to by our own Committee. The whole thing has been passed over very lightly. They went to confer with the Commission of Government with a resolution that contained three important clauses. Somewhere along the way they forgot about one clause, and they come back with this answer,

"that it was doubtful whether the subject matter of the clause was within the terms of reference of the Convention or not." I think in the discussion of any matter the first essential is the establishment of facts. That was not done. The Commission of Government did not give an opinion, and the Committee did not give an opinion. The word "doubtful" stays here, despite the fact that we have the opinion of the member from Bonavista, expressed twice, that we cannot do it. I want to know can we do it or can't we? If we can't, then I think it should be stated definitely and in understandable language in this report, and until such time as this paragraph dealing with clause one is corrected I certainly will not vote for the adoption of the report.

Mr. Fudge There is no need for me to go into the details of the purpose behind sending a committee to interview the government which arose out of the Hon. Mr. Job's resolution. However, I would like to point out I did not vote for this action on the part of the Convention, and I still do not agree with it. It has been my contention all along that the first duty of this Convention is to enquire into and determine the present financial state of our country and to gauge if possible what our future prospects are. Until we know what we have, and when we will get what we own, we will only prejudice our possibilities of the best proposition from the countries we may approach.

I regret that thus far there has been nothing or very little said of an encouraging nature as far as our country is concerned. We have been subjected to a steady flow of hot air which has tended to hold our little country up to the ridicule of the outside world. Sometime ago we were given good advice by our fellow member when he said if we had any dirty linen to wash, why not wash it in private? I feel very strongly about the time which is being wasted. In the early days we had a resolution to send a delegation to Ottawa and we are still talking about delegations outside of our own country when we do not know what is in our own warehouse.

Mr. Chairman, if any delegation goes from this country they should know what stock is in our own warehouse and then find out what the British government intends to do about the base deals, as they did not have the consent of the people when our territory was bartered away. I

¹Volume II:447.