

Mr. Crosbie and seconded by Mr. Penney. The matter is open for discussion. Each member has the right to speak once, Mr. Crosbie having the right to reply.

Mr. Vardy I support Mr. Crosbie's motion. I feel from what ground we have covered we realise with deep concern the serious inroads which have been made on our national wealth during the term of Commission of Government. Many of their unscrupulous acts are beyond repair, more will be headaches for some future government; but at least and during the remainder of their tenure of office I would suggest that "what we have we hold." This is not the time to encourage any lengthy debate on the matter; but we will all agree, in view of the startling facts already before us, this urgent matter demands our immediate consideration.

If they as the trustees and guardians of our country's resources refuse our request, an appeal should be addressed from this Convention, through His Excellency the Governor, to the appropriate authorities in London. Some may interpret this as being beyond our terms of reference. If so, it is certainly not beyond our rights as Newfoundlanders, who are at this time more than ever concerned over the fate of what little is left of our natural resources. If nothing more is done, a unanimous petition from the individual members outside the official scope of the Convention should be addressed to the government on this important matter.

Mr. Miller Take the second last line — "nor any disposal of any assets of Newfoundland or Labrador." Does "assets" cover the whole thing? I feel it should be all-embracing.

Mr. Smallwood It would be scandalous if the motion were to pass with practically no discussion. I do not think the government or the country would consider that this Convention was taking it seriously if it went through in a perfunctory manner. It is one of the most vital things to come before the Convention. The point made by Mr. Miller is that it does not go far enough; it seems to me, technically, that it goes a little too far. I think I know what is in the mind of the mover and those who seconded it; they have in mind the public domain, the natural resources, waterpowers, timber and territorial areas; but what is mentioned there is the word "assets" which goes way beyond physical assets. As

worded, if that were adopted by us and accepted it would preclude the government from adding to the national assets.

Mr. Crosbie You are wrong.

Mr. Smallwood According to the motion there should be no further negotiations in connection with any assets of Newfoundland, even to increase those assets. I know Mr. Crosbie means the natural resources of this country that might still be bartered away, and that is what we all have in mind. If some of the rumours are true — what about this business of further bases? Mr. Job has been concerned that we have leased those bases for 99 years in return for nothing. Even the land they built on, the Americans did not pay for — not a single cent. It was paid for by the British government. First the Newfoundland government paid for it and the British government paid them back. One thing I will say for Mr. Crosbie, if anything is to happen, he is the first to hear of it. If our territory is to be further bartered away, if we do get our own government back again in the future we will not be able to do much with it. Maybe Mr. Crosbie would tell us about the 20 million cords of good merchantable timber discovered by Bowaters. Is that on Crown land or is it among the grants?

Mr. Crosbie As far as I know it still belongs to Newfoundland.

Mr. Smallwood That makes it more important. If we have 20 million cords in Labrador and if people are here from Canada and the United States trying to get concessions; and if a private company can write Mr. Crosbie from Saint John and offer him 10,000 square miles of timberland in Labrador, there must be some reason on their part for the man to be able to think they can get it. Every member of this Convention would not be a Newfoundlander if he did not feel as Mr. Crosbie does, who is determined to do everything in his power to prevent any more of this going on for the next 12 months. There is room there for a first-class row. I am sure the whole Convention, and the public, will back him; and if he wants a parade or march, we will follow behind....

Mr. Higgins I agree with Mr. Miller. If our reading is correct, I agree that Mr. Crosbie means assets as being in toto.

[It was moved by Mr. Smallwood, seconded by Mr. Higgins and carried, that Mr. Crosbie be