

itself." Might I point out that Roosevelt was addressing those words to 130 million people living in one of the richest lands of the earth and with all the mighty forces of a highly industrialised civilization theirs to command. The Economic Report is addressing 320,000 people living in one of the poorest lands of the earth, and with but a \$30 million national surplus to pull and haul on if the going gets rough. There just happens to be a slight difference. But now that Roosevelt's name has come up, I remember that he had a formula for the re-establishment of the lives of men at a level of not less than the most that might be had for all men. He wanted all men everywhere to enjoy freedom from fear, freedom

from want, freedom from the fear of want. And I like to think that he wanted that not only for the butcher and baker and candlestick-maker he knew, but for my last forgotten fisherman on the bill of Cape St. George as well. And if in the decision that confronts this nation there shall be any way of coming by such economic security, and yet retaining the full measure of our political liberty, then we should not turn our backs on that way to a more spacious destiny for purely sentimental reasons.

*[The committee rose and reported progress. A number of items on the order paper were deferred]*

### Motion to Amend National Convention Act to Permit Voting by Proxy

**Mr. Higgins** I move:

That this Convention request His Excellency the Governor in Commission that Paragraph 2 of the National Convention Act, 1946, be amended, whereby provision may be made that any member or members of the Convention incapacitated by reason of illness from attending sessions of the Convention may have his or their vote recorded in his or their absence provided he or they have signed and executed the proper instrument to give effect to this purpose. Such right to vote by proxy shall be exercised only during the debate on forms of government and the recommendations to the United Kingdom government arising therefrom to be put before the people

at a national referendum.

If the motion is carried, and if the Commission of Government accede to the request, it will be necessary to amend article 39 of our own constitution, but that could wait until after amendment is made by the Commission of Government, if the amendment is passed.

**Mr. Chairman** It is to permit members incapacitated by illness from attending to express by proxy his or their vote or votes on forms of government, when that business comes before the Chair.

**Mr. Smallwood** I wish to second that motion.  
*[The motion carried, and the Convention adjourned]*

November 13, 1947

**Mr. Cashin** I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask the Honourable the Commissioner for Home Affairs to obtain as soon as possible from the United Kingdom government the answers to the following questions:

(a) Does the United Kingdom government regard the legislation known as the Newfoundland Act, 1933, whereby the constitution of Newfoundland was suspended, as being at present valid, subsisting and legally effective?

(b) If the said legislation of 1933 is at present regarded by the United Kingdom government as valid and effective, is the United Kingdom government prepared to

comply with the provisions as set forth in the annex to the said act, wherein it states in section 4, subsection (g), "it would be understood that, as soon as the Island's difficulties are overcome, and the country is again self-supporting, responsible government on the request of the people of Newfoundland would be restored?"

(c) If the United Kingdom government intends to carry out the provisions set forth in the annex to the 1933 legislation, sub-section (g), what manner and what methods do they propose using to obtain the wishes of the people?