

Mr. Cashin The Ottawa delegation went to Ottawa, they brought back two Black Books. That was their report. The Grey Book which contains the terms and proposals was sent here, not brought here by the Ottawa delegation; it was sent here by special courier to His Excellency. The delegation did not have anything to do with bringing them in here.

Mr. Chairman The facts are that these documents were forwarded here as a result of the visit of the delegation.

Mr. Cashin Why did they not bring them back themselves?

Mr. Chairman That is a question you are properly entitled to ask.

Mr. Cashin The delegation should have been given them; but instead, they sent them to the Governor, who is Chairman of the Commission of Government.

Mr. Chairman I am not going to permit you to refer to His Excellency in a manner calculated to reflect upon his dignity as the King's representative. It is an appalling breach which I cannot allow. These documents were sent by the Prime Minister of Canada to His Excellency the Governor as the King's representative, and were forwarded by him to this House at the request of the Prime Minister of Canada. That is the position.

Mr. Cashin His Excellency had a letter which is tabled in this report. I am not reflecting upon him as the King's representative.

Mr. Chairman It is my duty to see that you do not.... Here is a request by the Prime Minister to the King's representative here to forward certain information which ostensibly was prepared as a result of a visit of the delegation which this Convention sent to Ottawa. All His Excellency the Governor does is comply with the request of the Prime Minister in sending these documents in question.

Mr. Cashin It is quite evident that the Ottawa delegation did not receive any terms or proposals. They came back with two Black Books.

Mr. Chairman That is right.

Mr. Cashin They went up there, spent three months and brought back nothing.

Mr. Smallwood What are we talking about here today?

Mr. Cashin We should not be talking about it.

Mr. Smallwood We did not have an empty visit.

Mr. Cashin You got nothing. You were sent

back with your tails between your legs. You got the cold shoulder. The Canadian government knew you had no power to negotiate such things as confederation. They just told you to go home and they would send you something in two or three weeks. It is the most outrageous document that ever came in through the doors of this assembly.

However, when we were unable to drag from Mr. Smallwood any definite information, we finally encouraged him to present to this Convention and to the country a proposed budget of the anticipated revenue and expenditure of the Newfoundland provincial government. This document, by the way, is not presented on behalf of the Ottawa delegation, but rather by Mr. Smallwood himself, and we must therefore conclude that the Ottawa delegation had no act or part in its compilation. At the outset, let me say that in my 25 years experience as a member of the House of Assembly, and as a close student of our financial affairs — after having read every budget speech since 1909, I must confess that Mr. Smallwood's attempt displays the most glaring and highflying attempt at "frenzied finance" that I have ever witnessed. Well do we remember Mr. Smallwood's deliberate attempt to belittle the efforts of the Finance Committee in its presentation of both the Financial and Economic Report, how he used every conceivable method to show to the country the hopelessness of our financial and economic position; now he has the gall to attempt to shove down the throats of the delegates and the people of Newfoundland this proposed provincial budget, which in my opinion is cooked up from beginning to end.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, to a point of order.

Mr. Cashin I am going to prove that it is cooked up, so sit down.

Mr. Smallwood I may say that the word "cooked up" is a favorite word of Mr. Cashin's. Does he mean falsify?

Mr. Cashin I said "cooked", not "falsified".

Mr. Smallwood Will he explain what he means by "cooked up"?

Mr. Cashin It is soggy, it is not done. Did you ever see a soggy doughboy? It is not based on any sound foundation whatever. To use Mr. Smallwood's own words, there is nothing in these few pages worth tearing to pieces. Let us have a