

back to responsible government. The British government will facilitate in every way an expression of your opinion as to the form of government you really do desire. And if you should be sold out or railroaded into anything, the thing will be done by people here in this island. In the days that lie ahead you will be bombarded with propaganda designed to convince you of the merits of this form of government or that. All that you hear will not be true. Much of it will be confusing. But all of you have had a sufficient experience of the stark realities of life in this island to enable you to decide in the end what will be best for you. If then, when comes the referendum, you will each seek to disregard the emotionalism that will be poured at you, and judge according to the facts and the dictates of your own conscience, I have every confidence that in the making of this greatest decision that you, the people of this island, have ever had to make — I have every confidence that in the making of that decision you shall not err.

Mr. Reddy¹ Mr. Cashin, why is it we can't have a verbatim report of the whole proceedings in London?

Mr. Chairman I will answer that question, Mr. Reddy. When the discussions began, it was drawn to our attention by Lord Addison that there were two courses open. One, to have a free discussion at which every member of both delegations, if I may use that term, could, as it were, let his hair down, to use a more or less feminine expression, and talk freely. There would be no necessity to pick and choose one's words. That was one course. If that course were adopted, obviously it would be necessary that the actual proceedings should be regarded as confidential and only the formal documents be for public use. The other was to stick strictly to formal debate, which naturally would make free discussion very, very difficult. It was decided that we should adopt the former course; that we should talk freely, and that whatever was said, and which was reported of course in full, should be regarded as confidential, and the transcript of the reporter's notes should be for use only by the delegates themselves. Consequently, the actual speeches or statements made by the different delegates cannot be disclosed to the public.

Mr. Reddy Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the

explanation.

Mr. Harrington Mr. Chairman, is there any reason why the transcripts of these notes cannot be seen by the Convention in a private session?

Mr. Chairman The transcript of these notes can be seen by nobody except those who were present at the various meetings.

Mr. Miller Mr. Chairman, clause 7 of the resolution — that's Mr. Hollett's resolution of March 10 — other matters relative to Newfoundland affairs, that the delegation may raise in the United Kingdom if they're willing to discuss them. I'd like to ask if any other matters were raised.... If my memory serves me right, when the delegation went to Government House in February, I think it was, that particular section which brought in the name of the United States, we were quietly calmed down by being reassured that when the delegation went to England, they could take up these matters. Now that was more or less a promise. Was there any reference made to the annexation of the United States to Newfoundland? Not that I would be one to propose it, sir, but I do want to know for the benefit of this house and for the benefit of the country, since people here this afternoon are talking to the country. I came here to talk to this Convention, not to talk to the country, not to make a political set-up out of it. I want just the facts for myself and for my fellow candidates. I'd like to have a little more information on that, sir.

Mr. Chairman I cannot recollect just now, Mr. Miller, that the question of annexation with the United States was discussed at all. Do you remember that, Mr. Cashin?

Mr. Cashin No, not right directly. It was intimated there at one time, I think, by one of the delegates.

Mr. Chairman Yes, I have some recollection of that.

Mr. Cashin We were told, as far as my memory serves me, that on matters of trade or anything with the United States, that we would have to have our own government to do any business of that nature. We were told that any future business that might be contemplated by the Government of Newfoundland in connection with the bases, we would have power to go and talk to them about it....

Mr. Chairman I think that's when it arose,

¹The remaining section of this day's debate was taken from the recording of the proceedings.