

Parliament of Great Britain, two joint addresses would go. One from the Parliament of Canada, and a joint address from the legislature of Newfoundland. These two addresses go to the Parliament of Great Britain, praying that Newfoundland be made a province of Canada.

**Mr. Hollett** That is common knowledge.

**Mr. Smallwood** It is not common knowledge. Most people have not read the BNA<sup>1</sup> Act. The British Parliament would pass an act making Newfoundland a province. That would be an amending act of the BNA. There is no parliament in Newfoundland. Your question is, how would Newfoundland be made a province if once the people of Newfoundland decide in the referendum that this should be a province. How would it be brought about? I suggest to you there are a number of possible ways.

**Mr. Hollett** There cannot be "a number".

**Mr. Crummey** Mr. Smallwood will remember that that question was asked at one of the plenary sessions, and the Chairman, Mr. St. Laurent, said the Commission of Government would take the necessary steps to effect union.

**Mr. Smallwood** I do not like to contradict Mr. Crummey, but I am afraid I must. I do not like repeating the statements made at the plenary sessions...

**Mr. Crummey** We went up there to get information, and the question is asked now and the question has to be answered.

**Mr. Chairman** It seems to me your point is properly taken, Mr. Crummey....

**Mr. Smallwood** In reply to Mr. Crummey...

**Mr. Hollett** I would like to have my question answered first.

**Mr. Smallwood** It arises out of your question.

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. Crummey has made a statement of fact.

**Mr. Smallwood** Commenting on that statement of fact, it is still bearing on Mr. Hollett's question. Mr. St. Laurent was asked by what procedure could Newfoundland become a province. His reply was that there were various ways, in his opinion, in which it could be done. Commission of Government might do it.

**Mr. Crummey** It was a straight question and a straight answer in the plenary session.

**Mr. Chairman** Is that a matter of record?

**Mr. Crummey** We were not supposed to take

records.

**Mr. Smallwood** It is a record of memory and I am not exactly defective in memory. I am supposed to have a good memory.

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. Hollett has addressed a question to you and in the course of your reply, Mr. Crummey raised a point of order and he took exception to your stating that those plenary sessions should be regarded as private or secret or something of that sort. I ruled in Mr. Crummey's favour; that disposes of that. We are reduced to the position where I would like you to address your reply to Mr. Hollett, forgetting the point of order which Mr. Crummey raised.

**Mr. Crummey** I considered Mr. Smallwood was going in a long circuitous route to answer Mr. Hollett, and so I answered it.

**Mr. Chairman** I sustained you on your point. With that in mind, Mr. Smallwood, would you answer the question?

**Mr. Smallwood** Surely I am not to be put in the position of being told how I am to answer a question? Am I to be told I must state it in two or three or 19 words? I must answer it in my own way. I cannot get outside my own skin and become someone else. Getting back to Mr. Hollett's question. We have no legislature in Newfoundland, so the legislature of Newfoundland cannot make a joint address to Britain. We have not got a legislature, not an elected one. The Commission is the legislature of Newfoundland at the present time; they are both government and legislature, filling both functions. That is one way; to have the purely formal petition go to the British Parliament; it would only be a formality once the people have pronounced upon it in the national referendum; all the rest is a mere formality, a mere technicality. The real thing is what the people want. If the people want confederation, one way is to follow the BNA Act and say, "All right, there is a legislature in Newfoundland now". It was not elected, it is true. But it is the legislature. No one is going to deny that...

**Mr. Hollett** Is this the answer, that the Commission of Government would do it? Remember that the Commission is composed of four Englishmen and three Newfoundlanders.

**Mr. Smallwood** It is not the ideal way, but it is the legislature, though not an elected one. Another way is this — take the parliament we

<sup>1</sup>The British North America Act.