

**Mr. Chairman** There is one difficulty that appears to me — difficulty of getting in touch with the members and it would be better to know now the date, then we would know exactly when we were to re-assemble.

**Mr. Hollett** I fail to see how it can adjourn indefinitely. It may take some time for the commit-

tee to draft the rules but we should meet every day; we were not sent here for indefinite adjournments. Another thing, I do not think the public should be admitted where rules and regulations are being made relative to the business. I do agree that the committee should be allowed time.

*[The Convention adjourned until September 16]*

### September 16, 1946

**Mr. Chairman** The questions asked by Mr. Smallwood at the last sitting have been transmitted to the department concerned, but as yet no reply has been received.

**Mr. Butt** As it is commonly reported that during the deliberations between a deputation of the Commission of Government and the Dominions Secretary in London during the summer of 1944, the then Dominions Secretary, speaking with the approval of the Cabinet, offered to cancel the Newfoundland sterling debt, or alternatively to make annual grant for several years that would in total be the equivalent of this debt, I give notice that I will at the next meeting request the Commissioner for Finance or the department concerned to table the following information:

1. Is this report accurate in part or in full?
2. If so, has the decision or proposal then made been altered, amended or rescinded?
3. If it has been rescinded, has the commissioner any knowledge that it is the intention of the British government to make an alternative offer or financial or economic assistance to Newfoundland in any shape or form?
4. If any offer of assistance is to be made, what is its nature?

*[Information on a variety of topics was requested by Mr. Bradley, Mr. Cashin, Mr. Vincent and Mr. Smallwood]*

**Mr. Harrington** In the absence of the Hon. Mr. Job, I have to make a report of the work of the select committee appointed at the last sitting to draft an address of loyalty to His Majesty the King, and of thanks to His Excellency the Governor.

The select committee appointed on Thursday, September 12, 1946, to draft an address of loyalty to His Majesty the King, begs to submit the accompanying draft address for your approval, and if thought fit, adoption:

To His Excellency Sir Gordon Mac-

donald, K.C.M.G. Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its dependencies.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the duly elected representatives of the people of Newfoundland in National Convention assembled do hereby desire to convey through you, as our first official act, an affirmation of our deepest loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty King George VI, and our complete and lasting allegiance to the Crown.

The select committee appointed on Thursday, September 12, 1946 to draft an address of thanks to His Excellency the Governor, begs to submit the accompanying draft address for your approval, and if thought fit, adoption:

To His Excellency Sir Gordon Macdonald, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its dependencies.

May it please your Excellency:

We, the delegates of the National Convention in session assembled beg to thank Your Excellency for the gracious speech which you have been pleased to deliver at the opening session of the National Convention.

**Mr. Chairman** I would accept a motion for the adoption of these reports.

**Mr. Harrington** I move that these reports be adopted.

**Mr. Ballam** I second that motion.

*[The motion carried unanimously]*

**Mr. Chairman** Apropos of that, His Excellency is not in town at the moment. In the old days the procedure was for a delegation to proceed to Government House and to present to His Excellency the address in reply. Similar procedure might be followed in regard to the address of loyalty and the address of thanks; but as the Governor will not return for a fortnight, do you wish that the delegation should go to Government