

Mr. Hollett I did not ask them. I was not in touch with them.

Mr. Smallwood I am well aware that there will be an effort made, in fact Mr. Penney practically made it, to indicate that because the Province of Quebec — one of the nine provinces — has 65 members in the House of Commons out of 245, Quebec controls Canada; therefore if Quebec wants Labrador she will get it.

Mr. Penney I said nothing like that. I said the province controls the Liberal party at Ottawa.

Mr. Chairman What I understood him to say was that the Liberal party supplied the balance of power. Quebec held the balance of power.

Mr. Penney That is what I said and I do not want Mr. Smallwood to put it in a different light.

Mr. Smallwood On that point, the suggestion is being made, that the members elected from Quebec ... would somehow or other persuade or force the Parliament of Canada, which has 245

members in it, to force Newfoundland to give Labrador to Quebec.

Mr. Chairman That fear has been expressed.

Mr. Smallwood The answer to that is this: I admit there may be a revolution. Quebec may raise an army and march into Labrador and be an army of occupation and say to the Newfoundland province, "Get us out if you can". They might do that.

Mr. Penney They might do it in a peaceful way.

Mr. Smallwood They might do it in an illegal way. They might — I do not suggest that will happen. How can they do it in a peaceful way? They have to bring into Parliament an act to change the boundaries of the Province of Newfoundland....

[The committee rose and reported progress. The other items on the order paper were deferred, and the Convention adjourned]

November 21, 1947

Mr. Chairman Yesterday afternoon, at the request of members, a ten minute recess was taken in order to permit me to contact Mr. Howell, the Secretary of Customs, to request whether or not he was able to appear before the Convention to give members any information which may be required arising out of the Geneva conference. Today I received a letter from Mr. Howell, and I would now ask Capt. Warren if he would read it:

J. B. McEvoy, Esq., K.C., LL.B.,
Chairman, National Convention.

Dear Sir:

I refer to our telephone conversation of yesterday with reference to the request that I should appear before the National Convention sitting in committee of the whole to answer questions relating to the tariff agreements recently concluded at Geneva. I have referred this request to my Commissioner,

who instructed me to point out that a comprehensive statement of the agreements insofar as they affect Newfoundland was recently issued by the government. In these circumstances the government would not be willing for me to appear before the Convention. If members desire further information about the agreement, and submit questions in writing, duly endorsed by the Information Committee, I shall be pleased to return answers provided I may properly do so.

I have to point out that it will not be possible to answer questions relating to the negotiations, which were secret.

Faithfully,

J. G. Howell,
Secretary for Customs.

[Further consideration of the Economic Report was deferred]

Report of the Ottawa Delegation

Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation Committee of the Whole

Mr. Job Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks because I think we must all agree that we are not making very good progress under our present method of handling things. Yesterday the progress was distinctly poor, and it seems to me it will continue to be very poor unless some

better method of tackling the report is adopted. There are too many interruptions, and too much time is wasted on technicalities. I suggest that better progress would be made if Mr. Smallwood would make a simple, clear statement as to his interpretation of the Ottawa proposals as em-