

world — the USA. That is our hope and our destiny. Any other course would be political and economic madness.

Mr. Hickman Mr. Chairman, I would like first to refer to Mr. Smallwood's opening speech on Friday afternoon when he introduced the motion now before this Convention. Mr. Smallwood has referred here before to politics being present in this National Convention, but I think, sir, that he topped it all with his speech to which I have just referred. In my opinion he did not clearly outline just what those terms that have been offered by Canada would mean to the people of this country, and not only the benefit to them, but also the cost. The address, to my mind, was the start of a political campaign. He endeavoured to divide the country and set class against class. This is old-time political practice, and endeavours to set the poor against the rich and the middle class against which ever side is most beneficial to the political future of the proponent. It befogs the real issue, and if carried far enough, engenders class hatred to the exclusion of the common sense and practicability that is needed to make a sensible decision on the question that is to be put to the people. The whole speech, sir, sounded familiar to me, and only after listening to it for a while did it remind me of the tirades that I have heard from soapbox orators in Hyde Park in London and in New York.

Mr. Smallwood states that if the majority of this Convention had their way, the country would vote for nothing else but responsible government, but I think that the people will realise that by the unanimous passing of Mr. Higgins' motion to put before the people both responsible and Commission of Government, Mr. Smallwood's contention is completely wrong. He also stated that it was a battle to get the Convention to debate these terms. Here again I cannot agree in any way with his statements, as I know of no time when members did not wish to have these debated and I, for one, was very much desirous of having these terms of confederation debated here, if for nothing else to show how insufficient and how dangerous they were to the future economy of the people of this country. If I had been the only one, I still would have voted to have these terms debated as we have done. Mr. Smallwood also states, and this has already been referred to by Mr. Reddy, that 99 out of 100 Newfoundlanders

wanted the choice of confederation to be submitted to them, but I do not believe that 99 out of 100 or any portion of the people would want confederation submitted to them on what I might term such crucifying terms. He states that we are fighting a battle for economic security, but I fail to find any economic security for the people in the terms which have been submitted to us. I would like to say right here, sir, that I am not against and do not hate confederation just for the sake of hating it, as Mr. Smallwood would have you believe. If I thought that these terms would really benefit the country as a whole, raise the standard of living of the people, and relieve them of burdensome taxes, I would be very glad indeed to recommend it; but on these so-called terms which we have been offered, I fail to find the security for which the people of this country are looking.

Mr. Smallwood states that those people who are against confederation on the terms outlined from Canada, have been harping on the property taxes that the people will have to pay. The property taxes, while they mean something to those who have to pay, yet are only a part of what the people will pay in taxes. The federal tax that will go to the Canadian government and the provincial taxes necessary to maintain administration of this provincial government will be a large source of worry, as well as taxes on property or school tax. Nobody here has intimated yet that the federal government will collect any property taxes. That has not been stated. Mr. Smallwood says that the provincial government never will collect property taxes because they would be thrown out of office if they attempted to do this; and he went on to say that the town councils — if you wish to have a town council — would perhaps collect these property taxes if they so desired. But let me point out, sir, that if there is no town council in a settlement, then the roads and public works or other services in that community have to be maintained by the provincial government, and they in turn must tax to collect the money which they will spend. If those communities that have town councils are to progress and maintain their townsites, then they must collect taxes to do so, and whether you pay a property tax to the federal government, provincial government or town council, it does not matter. You will be taxed just the same, and whoever collects it will not help to ease the