

means if we think it necessary, but do it in an economic manner consistent with the impression we gave our constituents when seeking election. Let our wishes be known to the Commission of Government, with the request that the government open negotiations immediately with the Canadian government with the aim of securing the terms of confederation. Let it be done by mail instead of selecting a band of globe trotters. Suppose some person brought in a resolution advocating this country be made part of an international zone comprising the three greatest English-speaking nations of the world, namely England, Canada and the United States of America, would not that person have reason to demand the same right and privilege as the person who brought in the motion now before us? If we mean what we say, that we will support every movement that would be in the best interest of our country, may I suggest we use a postage stamp instead of a railway ticket when we can get the same result. Do not let us be deceived in thinking that Canada will give us any better terms than the Maritime provinces received when they threw in their lot with the federal government. With all due consideration I will support the amendment.

Mr. McCarthy I am not going to speak at any length to the motion, and certainly not at all on confederation, which is not the issue; too much has been said for and against that by some previous speakers. I wish to make it clear that I am not supporting confederation or any other form of government at this particular time, but when the time comes however I shall favour the form of government which I think will best serve Newfoundland and its people.

I know there are some Newfoundlanders, few though they may be, who are favouring confederation and we owe it to them to obtain all information possible on the issue. Whether this is sought now or later does not matter a great deal, as long as it is available to the Convention when committees are finished. Canada, knowing now that we do not have to accept, will I think submit her best offer. Then our confederates, knowing this, will have a better idea whether or not it would be wise to vote that way. Therefore, I support the resolution.

Mr. Spencer Mr. Chairman, hitherto I have taken no verbal part in the public sessions of this

House. Being one of the younger members of this Convention and unaccustomed, as many of us are, to gatherings of this sort, I have chosen rather to listen and learn. But having sat and listened for the last two days to the comments and debate on the resolution now before the House, I feel compelled to make some comment. I know, and many gentlemen here have stated, that there are people in all the districts of Newfoundland and Labrador who are expecting that confederation will be one of the forms of government which will be presented to them at a future referendum, and for that reason alone it was inevitable that the question of getting terms from the Canadian government should at some time have to come before this House. I think we agree on that. The main point of the argument at the present time is, it seems to me, the time of presenting the resolution, which some delegates think was premature. But the fact remains that the motion is before the House and we have spent three sessions in disputing and debating it. Now what are we going to do about it? Are we going to shelve this resolution at the present and bring it in at some future date? I have come to the conclusion that I will support the motion, because if we shelve the question now and have it brought in again at some future date, we should have all our discussions and debates over again which to me seems a waste of time, and I have no wish to see this Convention prolonged more than is absolutely necessary. I would wish this Convention to have the facts when they want them and not have to wait for them. In making this decision I wish it to be clearly understood that I have not been approached or influenced by any member of this Convention. Let us get the question settled as quickly as possible and get on with the real business of finding the facts about our own country.

Mr. Ballam Mr. Chairman, I have not spoken on the resolution before because I did not think it necessary to have so many speeches made. If every resolution and question that is brought in is going to have 45 speeches made on it we are going to be here for a very long time yet. The resolution now before the Convention is not whether we are going to back confederation or not. There is nothing in it about confederation except to obtain the facts as to terms with Canada. Those who spoke on the amendment want to get the facts too. The only point is to decide whether