

paper said in criticism of your language or in contempt for disloyal politicians will be forgotten; but the contribution we make toward lifting our country from this shameful abyss, to re-establishing our civic pride and independence as a free people, either on our own or as proportionately equal partners within the framework of the British Commonwealth, will live forever.

We are now, or should be, all working together for one common goal, that being a thorough study of our assets and liabilities, with a view to deciding whether or not we are self-supporting.... We all have certain pet ideas on forms of government; but many of these corners will be brushed off when the basic facts of our true position and most peculiar economic structure are fully understood by the members as a whole. I am most conscious and deeply concerned over every aspect of our case, and I shall under all circumstances base my recommendations on the facts and the results of our findings.

What we have learned already calls for brave men, with big hearts, gifted with a clear unbiased understanding of the many broader issues at stake. We should not be influenced by mere oratory, anyone can write a speech; but, it is the cold-blooded undeniable facts alone that should influence our decisions. We are all very conscious of the disgraceful manner in which our unfortunate country has been exploited in the past, and how it is still the victim of soulless individuals, to whom suffering, liberty, the people's fear of want or respect for the rights of others, mean nothing. Therefore the future form of government must be the people's choice, but from this elected body must emanate a true unbiased picture of the real facts as we know them, in order to assist our people to vote intelligently at the polls. There is only one commitment I will make and there is no limit to which I would not go to defend it — that any future form of government for Newfoundland should be fully democratic in principle. We have earned it, paid for it in blood, and we must have it.

Mr. Banfield Mr. Chairman, whether we are confederates or anti-confederates, I don't see that it enters into the picture when it comes to voting on this motion. It is not a motion that makes confederates of us, nor anti-confederates of us, that takes any stand in the matter — it is not a pro-confederation motion, nor an anti-con-

federation motion. If I were the strongest and bitterest anti-confederate in this Convention, I would vote to get the terms of confederation, even if it was only for the purpose of attacking the terms. I cannot see that this Convention has any moral right to vote against the resolution, because it means voting against getting information that the people want. The people are expecting us to be fair and square, to get all the facts about confederation or any other form of government. There will be precious little respect for us if we close our ears and our minds to any proposal that may be for the good of the people. Who knows? Confederation may turn out to be the best thing that ever happened to us. It may also turn out to be the worst thing. We don't know which it would be, because we don't know what we're talking about. We can't be confederates today, any more than we can be anti-confederates. The first thing to do is get the facts, and that's all the resolution asks. I am one of the many Newfoundlanders anxious to get at the facts. I want to make up my mind on this confederation question that has been kicked about in this country as long as I can remember as a political football. We were never told the truth — we were never given the facts about it. We all want to do the best possible thing for the country. When we know the terms and conditions, then we can form a sensible opinion. We will know if it is worth recommending, and the people will know if it's worth voting for. I am not afraid of the people, of their fairness or common sense. I trust their sound judgment. It is not for this Convention to say whether we shall have confederation or not, that is not our job. That is up to the people. It is for them to decide whether we'll have confederation or any other form of government. This resolution asks us to agree that we want the facts about confederation. I agree and if Mr. Smallwood had not moved this resolution I would have moved it myself, because I think it is our duty. I think we owe it to our Newfoundland people so I am going to vote for this resolution when the vote is taken.

Mr. Miller Mr. Chairman, I had not any intention of discussing the present question, nor do I consider it calls for any lengthy debate; therefore I shall be as brief as possible. I will refer to a remark made by Mr. Butt earlier. He said: "We don't seem to be quite clear on many things", and I would say that we don't seem to know where