

best-off countries in the entire world for its size and population. Next I considered the possibility that even though we were well-off now, what about the future? Could we stand up to the future? Can we carry on? I got my answer to that when the Economic Report was read. I saw that report viciously attacked with all the resources of the opposition. I heard a Newfoundlander many times run down his country to the dirt. I saw every effort being made to create despair and blue ruin. But I also saw the report stand up to all its attackers, and when the smoke cleared away its findings were just as staunch and undeniable as when it first came before us. I found that not alone was our future bright with hope, but that hope was also accompanied with a definite assurance that, as far as human vision and foresight can reasonably expect to go, the future for Newfoundland looms up as the brightest in its entire history. These were the facts presented to me. These were the facts which as a sane logical person I have to accept, and which for the same reason all our people have accepted unless we are afraid to face the truth. Having then accepted the facts of our present prosperity and our hopeful outlook, I began to ask myself, if these things are so, what is all this talk about our having to have someone else to take us in? Why should we think that someone would think of rescuing the perishing, caring for the dying Newfoundlanders? What is the reason for all this confederate propaganda which I see around me? I have asked that question to myself many times, and I have gotten no answer. I ask it again today, and I still get no answers. Day after day, week after week, month after month, you and I have listened to the endless speeches of the confederates, waiting to see if they would give us the explanation we wanted. Waiting, waiting to see if they would give us some sane reason why we, the people of this country, should sell our sovereignty, bury our national heritage forever in an obscure corner of the Canadian backyard....¹ But I repeat, we have never been given the answer and the reason is simply this — they have no good reason to give us.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, a point of order. Mr. Fudge can't look into people's hearts, he can't tell why they do what they do. He's attributing motives and not very good motives. The

debate is nearly over. It's all been friendly the last few days. I think if we don't get vicious about it now, everybody would be a lot better off.

Mr. Chairman Mr. Fudge is simply drawing a conclusion.

Mr. Smallwood An improper conclusion.

Mr. Chairman Well, that is a matter open to question. The fact is that conclusions have been drawn by members of this House on every conceivable question.... Who am I to decide whether the conclusion drawn by one person, and not shared by any other person or persons, is incorrect?

Mr. SmallwoodMy point of order is that he has drawn the conclusion that the motives of the confederates are bad. Is he entitled to draw that conclusion and make that imputation?

Mr. Chairman I don't think...

Mr. Smallwood That's what he said, sir.

Mr. ChairmanIf the language employed is calculated to impute a design or motive, then Mr. Fudge had no right to use that language.

Mr. Fudge No such a thing, Mr. Chairman. Before interruption I said they had no good reasons to give us. I state now we either buy their pig in a poke, sight unseen, or we do no business. Now Mr. Vincent, yesterday I believe, made some reference to the difference in the price of hay in Canada and here in Newfoundland. I believe he stated that the price of hay in Canada was \$30 a ton and that it was \$60 a ton in Newfoundland. Now surely Mr. Vincent, who is a businessman, is not trying to impress upon the people that he has \$30 profit on a ton of hay. I don't think he intended to do that. I did expect Mr. Vincent to explain the difference between the \$20 and the \$30. I understand that the cost of transportation on hay is around \$20. The duty on the hay is approximately \$5. And he knows, as I find the figures, there's about a profit of \$2 on the sale of hay. I want to impress upon the delegates that no matter whether we went into confederation or not, the cost of transportation will be the same, whether in or out, unless somebody in this country is prepared, or Mr. Smallwood might be able, to go up and bring it down for nothing.

Mr. Smallwood 20% off.

Mr. Fudge I'm talking about the freight rate.

Mr. Smallwood The freight is 20% off.

Mr. Fudge They're looking for an increase up

¹Gap in the recording.