

are not all to blame. I've heard it said on the streets and in many places that the Commission of Government were the real cause of pegging our wages. That is only partly true. The Commission of Government worked under pressure from the Dominion Steel Company, from Bowaters, AND and the Commission of Government acted through the Dominion Office. And I got it from a Commissioner who's not a Newfoundlander, either. He told me that down in his office. They had to do so.

**Mr. Smallwood** Mr. Chairman, if the Commission of Government did it, what does it matter why they did it? If they did it because the big corporations got them to do it, that doesn't take the blame from the Commission. The Commission did it, whatever the reason was. And replying just briefly to Mr. Miller, the Americans were not paying those low wages in Argentina very long. I had that interview with Sir Wilfred Woods just a few months after the Americans went into Argentina, and that letter he wrote to the magistrate in Placentia was written some time before I saw him. In other words that letter was written to Magistrate Linegar or whoever was the magistrate, just after or just around the time that the Americans went into Argentina. When I went to Argentina first, they were just barely beginning. I'll never forget the second time I went there, watching a great army of trucks removing a hill and dumping it out in the water to build an embankment. And, as I watched, one of the truck drivers pulling up to be loaded gave me a nod to come aboard and I got up and sat in the cab with him. And I made the circle five or six times. He was an American, we chatted. He said, "Are you a Newfie?" I said, "I'm a Newfie, yes." He said, "It's a darn scandal, it's a darn shame the way you people are being treated here." I said, "Why?" He said, "I'm getting \$1.80 an hour for driving that truck. You see the truck right behind me?" I said, "Yes." "It's a Newfoundlander, a Newfie driving it. You see the truck in front of me?" I said, "Yes." "It's a Newfie driving that. Here we are, three of us, two Newfies, one American, driving the same trucks, doing the same work, one behind, one in front and one in the middle. I'm getting \$1.80 an hour and they're getting 80 cents an hour and from all I can hear your own government is the cause of it." "Well", I said, "you heard right because I got it right straight from the

horse's mouth — right from Sir Wilfred Woods himself."

**Mr. Hollett** That just shows us what these Americans and Canadians will do for Newfies. They will allow one truck driver to get a dollar and something and the Newfoundlanders will get much less. But as for the rambling around the woods a little bit, making all sorts of assertions, no proof of anything at all — hearsay. I'm going back to the chairman of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee also deplores the action of the Commission of Government with respect to restriction of the rates of pay and so forth. They deplore the action and make a positive statement that it was the action of the Commission of Government. I would like to ask Major Cashin, have you any proof for that?

**Mr. Cashin** The proof has been provided in the House the proof, if I never had any before, came out here this afternoon.

**Mr. Hollett** I don't call that proof.

**Mr. Cashin** The proof was that Mr. Hannon said he had seen a communication from the Commission of Government or some official...

**Mr. Chairman** He didn't say that.

**Mr. Cashin** What did he say then?

**Mr. Chairman** An official.

**Mr. Cashin** An official, that's what I said ... an official of government. There was only one kind of government in the country and that was Commission government.... The whole thing was going wild all over the country. It was going through your ears all the time. You were bound to hear it. And who were responsible? My friend across here, Mr. Jackman, blames the corporations and so on for influencing Commission government. But the government is the government and they shouldn't be influenced by anyone. It's their responsibility. If a government is being influenced by corporations they're not fit to govern.

**Mr. Chairman** I think, gentlemen, you're getting a little far afield. The fact that the Commission of Government may or may not have brought a condition of things about, and a mere speculation, conjecture or opinion as to why that was done are two entirely different things. The statement has been made here that the Commission of Government did bring it about. Whether or not there has been any evidence produced in support of that statement ... is a matter of choice, but I feel