

November 6, 1947

**Mr. Chairman** Gentlemen, I have just received a letter from His Excellency the Governor:

Government House, St. John's.

November 6, 1947.

J. B. McEvoy, Esq., K.C., LL.B.,  
Chairman, National Convention,  
St. John's, Nfld.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to a request by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, I wish to ask you to kindly bring to the immediate attention of the National Convention the enclosed copy of a letter I have received, together with the enclosure attached thereto.

Have you enough copies? I think they might be distributed. I propose to have the enclosure read by the Secretary when copies have been distributed.... Quite obviously there can be no discussion. Immediately after it is read we will proceed with the business of the day as indicated

by the order paper.

**Mr. Hollett** Mr. Chairman, may I ask if the communication from the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King is to be read too?

**Mr. Chairman** I don't know if that is included or not. In my copy it is. If you would be so good, Captain Warren, would you proceed with the reading of the document? I propose releasing the copies to the press.

*[The Secretary read the document]*<sup>1</sup>

**Mr. Bradley** Mr. Chairman, I do not know how you intend to deal with this communication, but I suggest that because of the importance of the document itself, if for no other reason, the proper procedure would be to receive it now, and to refer it to a committee of the whole tomorrow.... I give notice that I will on tomorrow move that the communication from the Government of Canada be received, and referred to a committee of the whole.

#### Finance Committee: Economic Report<sup>2</sup> Committee of the Whole

**Mr. Job** Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few remarks on this Economic Report, and I dare say that people will be curious to know why my signature is not appended to it. Perhaps they will be disappointed when I tell them that, in the main, I was in favour of the winding-up part of the report. I believe that the country is self-supporting. I did not sign the report for two or three reasons. The first was that I thought it was not necessary to introduce a budget. One can quite understand the inclination of Major Cashin to introduce this report on the basis of a budget, and as any finance minister would have introduced it in a house of parliament. I think we can also understand why Mr. Smallwood, who might be termed "the Leader of the Opposition", thought it his duty to tear it to pieces. His tearing of it to pieces was a matter of opinion, whether it was effective or not. I don't think it was very effective. I would like to express my approval of the conclusions of the report, and I don't want to enter into a discussion of the details. I think the report was written in a very racy, very readable way, and presented in a very interesting form. On

the other hand I don't hesitate to say that the estimates can be only regarded as guesswork. Estimates generally are. There is no reason, in my opinion, why \$35 million or \$25 million, or \$40 million should not have been taken as the probable revenue, instead of \$30 million. However, the figures as they are in the report are pretty good, and it is the interpretation that counts.

There is only one discrepancy that I can really point to in the figures, and it is not done with a view to criticism, because I don't think it matters very much. Life insurance values are put down as \$30 million as the surrender value.

**Mr. Chairman** That is the estimated cash surrender value.

**Mr. Job** Yes. Now I would like to hand to the chairman of the Committee the actual report from the office of the Assessor of Taxes which shows the actual liability to policy holders as at 31 December as \$22,237,464.

**Mr. Cashin** What year?

**Mr. Job** Last year, 1946. I don't think it matters. That \$8 million will not make a shadow of difference to me in my opinion as to the life in-

<sup>1</sup>Volume II:510.

<sup>2</sup>Volume II:425.