

to deal with trade and tariffs and the other possible federal union. Of course the government is right! When we come to talk about making a tariff deal with the United States, that is a matter for the Government of Newfoundland, whatever that may be, not the Convention. We were not elected as a government to do the job of the government; not elected to make a trade treaty or get tariff concessions with the United States....

Suppose we had responsible government in office today and we wanted to take up with the United States this question of trade tariffs and concessions, could our responsible government do it? Yes! On two conditions. First, if Great Britain were willing. Up to the last minute we had responsible government in 1934, the Government of Newfoundland could not go gallivanting up to make trade treaties on its own. If we had signed the Statute of Westminster we would be able to do it. But we never signed that. In 1920 when Sir Richard Squires wanted a treaty with Spain and when Sir Robert Bond wanted a treaty with the United States, they had to do it through diplomatic channels, that is the British ambassador, and the British foreign minister. That is how we would have to deal today if we had responsible government, only if the US were willing to discuss the matter. Why will they not discuss it? Because in April they are having an international conference and until that is held, they have no intention whatever of making any separate deals with individual nations....

So the government gave us this advice, and you have to give credit where credit is due. They said this matter of trade concessions, allowing our fish to go in at a lower rate of duty, ought to be dealt with between government and government; not between the Convention and the Government of the United States.... I do not like the Commission of Government. At least, if anyone comes in here to paint them as a pack of scoundrels, let us have proof! Then Major Cashin read out something Mr. Attlee said, adding "when I made that statement a lot of the members did not agree with my interpretation of it." The interpretation was this: Mr. Attlee said and could mean only that they were here for another three years. You can hold your Convention and referendum; they are going to be here for another three years.... Where is there a scrap of evidence that the Commission is going to be here another

three years? This year, 1947, there will be a national referendum, no doubt about it. There is not a man here but in his heart knows that in 1947 there is going to be a referendum. We do not know when it will be. If we can get the job finished in the next two or three months.... I say here and now that some month this year there is going to be a referendum and the people will decide what kind of government we will have. "Oh!" they say, "you may have the referendum but what guarantee have we that Dominions Office, this evil genius of Newfoundland, this octopus on the back of the world, will put on the ballot what we recommend?" Trash and nonsense! Whatever we recommend within reason, unless it is some cockeyed foolish thing, they will put on the ballot and the people will get their chance to vote it down or up. They are the bosses. Then someone says, "What guarantee have we that the Government of Britain will give us the kind of government we vote for?" We have this guarantee.... They have said categorically that the kind of government the people vote for they will have. What is all this nonsense about? Finally, Mr. Hollett...

Mr. Hollett I rise to a point of order. Was it not decided here that the use of a person's name was not to be tolerated?

Mr. Chairman You are right. It is improper, strictly speaking, to use a person's name.

Mr. Smallwood I shall refer to him as the junior member for Grand Falls.

Mr. Chairman That would be in order.

Mr. Hollett I would like to know where you get your authority to refer to me as the junior member for Grand Falls?

Mr. Chairman I thought I was paying you a compliment.

Mr. Hollett I wish to advise the present speaker who has the floor that if my name is bandied about as was Major Cashin's, I have no privileges in this House, but I have privileges outside.

Mr. Chairman I do not wish to hear anything outside this House. I repeat, in your objection to the use of your name, you are correct. I have told Mr. Smallwood he must not name you by name, but he must identify you. Proceed, Mr. Smallwood.

Mr. Smallwood The member for Grand Falls who just sat down.

Mr. Fudge Is this a mock parliament?