

desired to enter Confederation. In the event that they do not accept the present proposals, we certainly would not be averse to discussing others, although no detail of any alternative plans has been decided upon or even considered.

Thanking you for your interest in this matter and assuring you of our hope that the people of Newfoundland might find it in their interest to become associated with the Dominion, I am,

Yours very truly,

JOHN BRACKEN

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*Extraits d'une dépêche du haut commissaire par intérim à Terre-Neuve  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Extracts from Despatch from Acting High Commissioner in Newfoundland  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

DESPATCH 349

St. John's, July 17, 1948

Sir,

I wish to refer to my despatch No. 347 of July 16th<sup>†</sup> regarding the present political campaign.

2. The series of radio addresses being given on behalf of Confederation continued last night with a speech by Mr. J. B. McEvoy, K.C. Mr. McEvoy occupies a unique position in the legal profession of this country, and was Chairman of the National Convention from January 1948 until its sessions were ended. He was introduced by Mr. Don Clouston, a St. John's businessman.

3. Mr. McEvoy said that in voting in the coming referendum the Newfoundland people are faced with a clear-cut choice between returning to Responsible Government as it existed in 1933, or deciding to join the Dominion of Canada on the terms offered by the Canadian Prime Minister through the Governor of Newfoundland. Newfoundlanders must make up their minds whether they wish to remain a separate political entity or whether they wish to join with Canada in establishing a great British nation in North America.

4. Mr. McEvoy hurled a number of telling arguments at the idea that economic union with the United States is a feasible proposition for Newfoundland, and then went on to make his case for Confederation. He said that in February of this year he had stated in an interview with a newspaper reporter that he felt that Newfoundlanders should vote in the referendum on Confederation in principle only, a final decision being postponed until a later date. When, however, the British Government decided otherwise, he applied himself to a study of Confederation and of the terms offered in the same way that he had investigated the proposal for economic union with the United States. He arrived at the conclusion that Confederation is the best course for Newfoundland and that, even though the terms have not been negotiated, it would be impossible to effect any material change in them — at least so far as the financial provisions are concerned. He