

[ANNEXE 2 À LA PIÈCE JOINTE/SUB-ENCLOSURE 2]

SECRET

July 26, 1948

DISCUSSION AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. J. B. MCEVOY

Present: Messrs.

McEvoy
Pippy
A. F. Monroe
Brooks (Harvey and
Company)
John Clouston
Clyde Lake
Smallwood
Bradley
Dr. Moors
Dr. Roberts, Sr.
Dr. Roberts, Jr.
Mr. Justice Dunfield.

Mr. McEvoy opened the discussion with the statement that this wasn't a political meeting or in any sense a meeting of any political party, but simply a gathering of some of his personal friends whom he had invited in for the evening. He then referred to press statements which seemed to indicate that there was some doubt whether the Canadian Government would accept the vote from Newfoundland as a sufficiently clear indication of the public will in favour of Confederation. He then proceeded to demolish this position, speaking at considerable length and with at times considerable feeling on the matter.

Referring to the vote, he said that a majority vote was the normal procedure in democratic government and that the despatch from the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations which had specified the conditions under which the referendum would be conducted⁸⁷ had distinctly stated that the majority vote would be accepted by the United Kingdom Government. He said that he did not know whether the Canadian Government had been consulted about the terms of this despatch but that in any case the Canadian Government had had an opportunity to protest this condition, especially after the first referendum and that it had not done so, so far as he knew. He said that he and his friends had come out in favour of Confederation on the assumption that a majority vote would decide the matter. They appreciated that the Prime Minister's statement in his covering letter of October 29th last did not specifically state that a majority vote would be acceptable but that the Prime Minister's letter was written at a time when it was not known how many forms of Government would be placed before the people. Since the Canadian Government had made no statement after the first plebiscite and since the United Kingdom despatch had expressly provided for a majority,

⁸⁷Voir la pièce jointe, document 550.

⁸⁷See enclosure, Document 550.