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*Le haut commissaire par intérim à Terre-Neuve au
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

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

TELEGRAM 105

St. John's, June 23, 1948

Doctor L. J. Jackman of Montreal encloses with a letter[†] published in the *Evening Telegram* copies of replies[†] received to enquiries regarding Newfoundland from the Prime Minister's Private Secretary and from Allan O'Brien, M. J. Coldwell's Parliamentary Secretary.⁶¹

2. O'Brien states that, in Coldwell's absence, he has discussed the question of the C.C.F. statements regarding the terms of Confederation with Davis Lewis, C.C.F. National Secretary, and that the latter has suggested that Jackman's letter be referred to the meeting of the C.C.F. National Executive in Ottawa, June 26th and June 27th. O'Brien assumes it is probable a statement would be issued following this meeting.

3. Jackman implies in his covering letter that he has also written to John Bracken⁶² but says so far no statement has been received from him. As you may have already deduced, Jackman's purpose is evidently to obtain evidence to support the contention that the terms are only a Liberal Party offer and in no way binding upon the Canadian people. He argues this in his covering letter and says he will send the editor of the *Telegram* copies of further correspondence "of value" received by him from political parties. Cashin is beginning to pursue a similar line here.⁶³

⁶¹M. O'Brien était le secrétaire privé de M. Coldwell et non un secrétaire parlementaire. Il n'y a pas de renseignements dans les dossiers sur l'attitude de l'exécutif national du CCF sur cette question mais la bienveillance de M. Coldwell envers l'union est évidente dans les extraits des débats de la Chambre des Communes dans la section b de la partie I du chapitre V.

⁶²Chef du parti Progressiste Conservateur et chef de l'Opposition à la Chambre des Communes.

⁶³Plus tard, après que George Drew était devenu le chef du parti en octobre 1948, le parti Progressiste Conservateur s'est montré en faveur de ceux qui prétendaient qu'on aurait dû rétablir un gouvernement autonome à Terre-Neuve avant d'entamer les négociations sur la confédération. Néanmoins, après le deuxième scrutin du référendum, le parti Progressiste Conservateur et le parti Libéral commencèrent à étudier leurs chances électorales à Terre-Neuve et à contacter des adhérents possibles. Le CCF a fait de même un peu plus tard.

⁶¹Mr. O'Brien was M. J. Coldwell's private secretary, not a parliamentary secretary. There is no information in the files concerning the attitude of the CCF's National Executive on this question but Mr. Coldwell's friendly attitude toward union is evident in the extracts from the debates in the House of Commons in section b of Part I of Chapter V.

⁶²Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons.

⁶³Later, after George Drew had become leader of the party in October 1948, the Progressive Conservative Party favoured the position of those who contended that responsible government should have been restored in Newfoundland before negotiations on confederation were undertaken. Nevertheless, after the second poll of the referendum, both the Progressive Conservative Party and the Liberal Party began to assess their electoral chances in Newfoundland and to contact potential adherents. The CCF began the same process later on.