

2. We had further discussion yesterday with United Kingdom officials here about matter of procedure and timing. In the meantime we had been able to discuss these questions to some extent with the Minister but they have not as yet been cleared by Cabinet, and will not be until at least after the referendum.

3. After a personal examination of the Newfoundland statute and Letters Patent, and reconsideration of the political situation, the Minister now appears to have reached the conclusion that the only really satisfactory procedure would be a United Kingdom statute passed pursuant to a joint address by the Canadian Parliament and probably an address from Newfoundland Commission of Government although this latter step would not be legally required. The statute would include as annexes terms of union and possibly a general statement about the provincial constitution. The Minister feels strongly that amendment of Section 146 of the B.N.A. Act on request of the Canadian Government would be politically objectionable whether or not legally sound. He feels there would be similar objections to a statute clarifying the powers of the Commission of Government to act under Section 146 of the B.N.A. Act passed at the request of the Canadian Government. He dislikes in general the method of amendment or a clarifying statute passed at the request of the Canadian Parliament since this might raise the whole question of procedure of amendment of the Act. Moreover, since an address embodying the terms would also be required, the procedure of amendment would involve bringing the whole matter before Parliament twice. We have advised the United Kingdom officials accordingly.

4. With regard to timing, we have again told the United Kingdom authorities that an effective date of union before March 31 would not be practicable from our standpoint.

5. See my immediately following telegram.[†] Ends.

629.

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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*

DESPATCH 354

St. John's, July 21, 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose copy of a clipping[†] from the Corner Brook *Western Star* of July 16th which contains a report of a speech made by Mr. J. B. McEvoy, K.C., in Corner Brook on July 13th, in the interests of Confederation. This speech was one of a series which Mr. McEvoy delivered on the West Coast. His other speeches were given at Stephenville and St. George's.

2. Mr. McEvoy argued that Economic Union with the United States is impracticable for Newfoundland and asserted that "there is only one way to secure Economic Union with the United States, and that is by joining with the great Dominion of Canada." He said that Confederation could have no adverse effect