

contention of the Responsible Government League and he thinks that the majority of the Newfoundland people are not in the least concerned about this issue. This led him again to remark that he thought they were perhaps a little more concerned about really good terms and to advocate some sort of forthcoming attitude on this point by Canada at an early date.

[ANNEXE 6 À LA PIÈCE JOINTE/SUB-ENCLOSURE 6]

SECRET

July 27, 1948

DISCUSSION WITH GORDON HIGGINS, K.C.

I met Gordon Higgins fortuitously in the Gander airport and was greeted by him most cordially. He was one of the most energetic campaigners for Responsible Government and apparently one of the bitterest against Confederation. He was in very good spirits and told several jokes about the campaign. He asked me what we proposed to do now. I replied, "What do you think we should do?" His immediate reply was, "Oh, I think you should take us in and settle the matter." I asked him how he thought his people would feel about going ahead with Confederation. He said of course they would be sore for a while but would get over it. He showed me some form letters that were circulated among the Orange Order and said that they had created a lot of bitterness, though he admitted that his side probably started it. We had a drink together and he said jokingly, "To the Tenth Province!" in which I of course responded. On parting, he said, "Well, I hope there are no hard feelings — there are none on my part."

[ANNEXE 7 À LA PIÈCE JOINTE/SUB-ENCLOSURE 7]

SECRET

July 27, 1948

TALK WITH COADJUTOR ARCHBISHOP FLYNN  
AND BISHOP O'REILLY AND BISHOP O'NEIL

On the advice of Sir Edward Emerson, I asked if I might see Msgr. Flynn, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. John's — the Archbishop is old and now rarely sees anyone. Msgr. Flynn was "in retreat," but consented to see me Tuesday evening. When Mr. Bridle and I arrived, we were surprised to find him accompanied by Bishop O'Neil, of Harbour Grace, and Bishop O'Reilly, of St. George's. Msgr. Flynn explained that the others were also with him "in retreat" and he thought we would not mind if they came with him.

I said frankly that I had come down to Newfoundland to provide the Government with an appreciation of the situation. I explained that I had no explicit instructions as to whom I should see, but that I felt personally I should see Msgr. Flynn in view of the fact that a considerable number of their people had voted for Responsible Government, whereas the majority of Newfoundlanders had voted for Confederation. I said that the question which I should like to ask was how he felt personally their people would be likely to react if action were taken in accordance with the wishes of the majority.

They said that they very much feared that if Confederation were proceeded with on the present basis there would be a continuing split in the country.