

*Supply—Formation of Ministry*

Mr. MANION: I realize that, and I have no intention of being brusque towards my hon. friend. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have shown what the attitude was of a man who was one of the outstanding statesmen in the world in his day. He did not take the attitude which the present leader of the opposition has displayed. The attitude which he took—and to my mind it was the only fair and honourable attitude—was that in order to aid the incoming administration to carry on the affairs of the House and the affairs of the country he would assist them in every possible way. The attitude of the ex-Prime Minister in this instance is to embarrass the country and embarrass the incoming administration in every possible way. Sir, John A. Macdonald deemed it to be a patriotic duty to help the incoming administration to carry on the affairs of the country, because country should come before party. We listened for two and a half hours last night, and for an hour or more to-day, to the right hon. gentleman who leads the opposition, and I submit that all his speeches have been veiled attacks upon the Governor General of this country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, the motive underlying the remarks my hon. friend has just made is most apparent.

Mr. MANION: Let the right hon. gentleman correct me if he wishes, but I object to his imputing motives to me.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say that the statement that any word of mine has been a veiled attack upon His Excellency the Governor General is absolutely unfounded and unparliamentary and should be immediately retracted.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman who has the floor cannot impute motives to another hon. member. If, as he states, the right hon. gentleman had been attacking His Excellency the Governor General, either openly or in a veiled manner, my hon. friend knows very well that I would not have permitted it.

Mr. MANION: I know that, Mr. Speaker, and that is why I suggested that the attack was veiled. However, I bow to your ruling.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend is required to withdraw the statement completely.

[Mr. J. J. Denis.]

Mr. SPEAKER: I trust the hon. gentleman will withdraw his rather strong expression.

Mr. MANION: Well, Mr. Speaker, if there is anything to withdraw, I withdraw it willingly in deference to your ruling.

Now, before I close my remarks with some quotations from the same book from which the right hon. leader of the opposition quoted, I wish to say this: The best inference which can be drawn from the quotations which the right hon. gentleman has made, and his own remarks, is, that even if they cannot be regarded as veiled attacks, they come very near to being attacks upon the Governor General. If the Governor General did what the right hon. gentleman claims he did to him the other day, he certainly was getting close to attacks on the Governor General.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have not taken any exception to what the Governor General did to me the other day. I said I would wait to see his action in the present situation.

Mr. MANION: The only reference that has been made in these debates to the Governor General has come from my right hon. friend, expect some refutations from this side. About every other paragraph of his speech dealt with the Governor General, and to those of us who have had the very great honour, as some twenty on this side of the House had, of serving under that gentleman who is now Governor General—

An hon. MEMBER: What kind of services?

Mr. MANION: Who asked that question?

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask hon. members on both sides not to drag in this debate the name of His Excellency. Yesterday I made it clear that the relations between the Governor General and the Prime Minister might be brought into the debate, because ministers have accepted the responsibility of taking office under the Governor General. But to bring in the personality of the Governor General I think is highly undignified.

Mr. MANION: May I ask you, Sir, what is undignified? Have I done anything which is undignified?

- Mr. SPEAKER: I am not referring to the hon. member. I say that bringing the name and the personality of the Governor General into any debate before the House, unless it is as regards the official relationship in which the ministers stand to the Governor General, is absolutely out of order.