

Interim Supply

Mr. Hansell: All right, I will accept the correction. What happened in the case I referred to? The matter was pursued further and every last minister of the crown was asked if he had correspondence with the C.B.C.; but of course that was not considered witch-hunting. It was done—

Mr. Knowles: In the interests of the integrity of the C.B.C.

Mr. Hansell: Oh yes, in the interests of the integrity of the C.B.C. The strange thing about it, however, from the point of view I adopt was that each minister of the crown popped up like a little boy and said, "No, not guilty. I didn't do it. Not I." The only sensible answer that came from the government benches was that which came from the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration who said, "Yes, I talked to these men and I told them what programs I liked and those I didn't like and I will continue to do so."

It is obvious from these illustrations that one can rise in this house and try to look under the bed to see if he can find something of that nature and it is not considered witch-hunting but if one stands in this corner of the house with a firm desire to be patriotic and loyal to Canada and see that Canada remains Canadian it is immediately said that he is witch-hunting.

I sympathized with the Prime Minister when he was undergoing the grilling the other day. He may have written the letter in innocence and perhaps he is in a position where he should recognize that he should exert care in such matters but I believe he did it because he genuinely felt that Canada was being put in a bad light. If Canada is put in a bad light by anyone Canadians should make a protest regardless of who they are.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre rose the other day—he may want to correct me on a point of accuracy again—and held up a newspaper bearing a large headline and said to the Prime Minister, "I want to know if the Prime Minister thinks that this sort of thing should be done."

He was doing the very opposite of what he was doing in respect to the C.B.C. He was bringing the Prime Minister into the picture and asking his influence in the control of the press.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): As long as it is advertising the member for Winnipeg North Centre—that is the purpose.

Mr. Knowles: Nonsense from both sides.

Mr. Hansell: As I say, it is all right to search for things of one nature and you can do it because you are a responsible

[Mr. Knowles.]

member of parliament, but if you search of something for another nature, you are a witch-hunter. All that might be done of the one nature will not turn this country over to the communists. So that I suppose we will have to go on being branded as witch-hunters when we desire to keep Canada clean and build a great nation for Canadians pursuant in our free and democratic way of life, thereby making something out of Canada as a real democracy. I do not think I have anything more to say along that line, but I thought a word perhaps was necessary at this time; I do not know what the members have been talking about today—there may be something to it—but if there is something to it my thought is this: Why do not these men make specific charges—

Mr. Harris: Too dangerous.

Mr. Hansell: —and have them investigated—

Mr. Knowles: We brought out things even the Prime Minister did not know; he had to admit that.

Mr. Hansell: —instead of all these hints and so on. I do not believe in innuendoes that cause people to think that anyone is dishonest. I do not believe in innuendoes that would cause people to think that a man is disloyal.

Mr. Winch: In view of what I am going to say there may be those who think I am placing myself in an impossible position, but I believe I have always had the courage to say what I believe, how I think and why I reach a certain conclusion. It was my understanding that the house was to prorogue this afternoon or this evening so I have been most interested in what certainly is the last day of my first term in the House of Commons. I have been most interested in what has been said. I sincerely believe the questions asked by the member for Winnipeg North Centre were logical, reasonable and acceptable questions.

I want to say this, however, that the statements made by the hon. member for York West were something which I never hoped to hear because, to me, they were character assassination. I have been in opposition here and in Victoria for some 24 years to policies with which I completely disagree. I hope that we can at all times carry on our opposition in politics on a fundamental, a principle and a program basis. I do not like and I was very very sorry to hear what in my estimation was character assassination.