

Mr. MANION: Possibly so. But I submit that the recommendation of judges by a premier, and particularly by one who, like myself, is not a lawyer—and I say that without intent to reflect on anyone—is an extraordinary offer to make. The minister, in a certain statement—not in the same one, I believe—says that he discussed the matter with the Prime Minister, and then he went back to Mr. Hepburn. He does not say that the Prime Minister raised any objection to this course of action.

I do not wish to go into the matter further, but I submit again that such a suggestion by the Minister of Agriculture was one of the most extraordinary suggestions ever made in this country, namely that the premier of one province should have the right to nominate judges. As a matter of fact, if Mr. Hepburn were to have the right to nominate judges, what about the premiers of the other eight provinces? Were they to have a like right?

Mr. GARDINER: That is not in the statement at all. This is about as near the truth as what the hon. member has been saying all evening.

Mr. MANION: Well, the hon. gentleman had better be more careful of his own statements. He probably knows better than any other hon. member how far away from the truth people can get. Let me quote his words:

I went down to Toronto to attend the Royal Winter Fair on November 16 and 17, and not as an emissary from dominion government authorities to offer "concessions" to Mr. Hepburn.

And then, farther on:

In the meantime, at noon on the 16th, Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, finding I was in Toronto but having no previous knowledge I was going and wishing to leave for Washington to sign the trade agreement, telephoned to get my comment on a certain feature of the agreement. After completing this he stated he would be pleased if I would consult some of our friends regarding the results in the South Waterloo by-election.

I do not blame him. And then the hon. member goes on:

I stated I was likely to see Mr. Hepburn, and inquired as to whether there would be any objection to discussing it with him. Mr. King replied, "Certainly not, by all means do so."

And then, farther down in the same article:

Mr. Hepburn states, "I was told I could have some say in Ontario appointments."

Then the Minister of Agriculture goes on to say:

My memory is that in justifying certain things which happened in Waterloo, Mr. Hepburn [Mr. Gardiner.]

burn took very strong exception to certain actions of the dominion government including certain appointments. I replied that I could see no reason why he should not make recommendations as other Liberal leaders do indicating that there are certain senatorial, judicial and possible future cabinet vacancies to be filled but making it plain that I had no authority from anyone to make proposals.

A little later on he says:

Mr. GARDINER: That is not "nominations".

Mr. MANION: Recommendations.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. MANION: Do I draw the conclusion that he was trying to flim-flam Mr. Hepburn? He is supposed to be a friend of Mr. Hepburn. The talk is that he was one of the men mixed up with Mitchell in an attempt to overthrow this government. That was the kind of talk. He was supposed to be a friend of Mitchell's, and yet he is virtually saying to-night that Mitchell would have the fun of recommending people knowing they would not be appointed.

Mr. GARDINER: My hon. friend said I had said that he had the right to nominate.

Mr. MANION: What is the difference between "nominate" and "recommend"?

Mr. GARDINER: No comparison at all.

Mr. MANION: What is the difference between "nominated" and "recommended"? "Nominated" means that someone is put forward and it is up to the government to appoint him. Nominating is not appointing, nor is recommending appointing. The only conclusion that one can draw is that the hon. gentleman is suggesting that he would tell Mr. Hepburn about the recommendation and that he was just putting it over Mr. Hepburn. Then he said:

After I returned to Ottawa and before Mr. King returned from Washington, Mr. Hepburn telephoned me and asked me to return to Toronto the following Friday. I stated that I would discuss the whole matter with Mr. King upon his return and let him know whether I would return to Toronto. I did so and returned to Toronto on Friday, November 25.

In other words, the Prime Minister did not make any objection. That is the only conclusion one can reach. The hon. gentleman and his party and the people of this country can form their own judgments on the whole case. The facts are as I have stated.

In closing this particular phase of my remarks—I shall soon be finished—let me say I notice that before he left this country the premier of Ontario asked for an explanation of the word "conspiracy." "Conspiracy" means