

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

her to a destination which she had requested. This information Steven had volunteered before the body was found, and the finger of suspicion pointed at him.

Defence evidence which would have proven conclusively that Steven had left the little girl far from the scene of the murder, and a perfect alibi, was disallowed. Mr. Speaker, I personally am so convinced of this boy's innocence, that I am prepared, if necessary, to stake my seat in the House of Commons on the outcome of an inquiry, or a royal commission, that would examine all the circumstances of the conduct of all the persons involved in:

1. The investigation of the girl's disappearance;
2. The questioning of children at the R.C.A.F. station;
3. The interrogation and taking of statements from Steven;
4. The detention and examination of the boy;
5. All orders given to or by the police;
6. The taking, retaking and redrafting of statements from child witnesses;
7. The disposal of the case by Magistrate Holmes as juvenile court judge;
8. The dismissal of the defence appeal against that decision;
9. The preliminary hearing and committal for trial by Magistrate Holmes;
10. The publicity given the preliminary hearing;
11. The public attitude in Huron county that made the verdict a foregone conclusion in the minds of so many

12. The preparation of witnesses and collection of evidence for the trial; and,
13. Finally, and in great detail, the conduct of the trial itself, including the roles of the judge, the prosecutor, the police officers, the three Crown doctors, and all other persons who took part in the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, personally I have almost lost confidence in our jury system, if not in our legal profession and our doctors. I implore the Solicitor General to give consideration to setting up such a commission.

**Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, personally I have not had an opportunity to read the book which I understand has not yet been officially released. I understand, however, that officials of the Department of Justice will be studying its contents very shortly.

Under the circumstances I hope the hon. member will acquit me of any incivility if I say it would be most inappropriate for me to make any comment. However, if he raises the question at a later date, I may be in a position to make a more precise statement.

It being twenty five minutes after ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

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