

Coll - Parl - speech from Thomas 1931.

Exhibit 5F

D17750

What was it that the Right Honourable Mr. Thomas said that occasioned all the furore? I can perhaps best indicate what happened by reference to the British Hansard, and its account of the proceedings. The record will be found in the British Hansard debates of November 27th, 1930, at page 1550. Reporting Mr. Thomas the following appears:

"We are censured because we refused to consider the offer made by the Dominions. What was the offer? I say clearly and definitely that if any offer were made that would help the trade of this country, would give employment to our people, and not injure them, not only would we have considered it, but it would have been our duty to accept it. (An honourable member: 'Why did you not do it?') For the simple reason, I assure you, that there never was such humbug as this proposal."

Mr. Thomas went on to explain why the proposal was humbug. He said:

"We were asked first, clearly and definitely, to agree to put a tax on foodstuffs. That was the

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