

let us have some human rights in this regard. My hon. friend, who is an old air force man, talks about counsellors. I am an old navy man. We were counselled not to play crown and anchor, but we used to play it just the same and we lost lots of money, or at least I did. Let us get a proper focus. Do not let us prejudice these men as guilty, even though they may be guilty from your point of view, until they have gone through the procedure of the courts of this country which, in my judgment—I do not except Great Britain in this regard—are the fairest on God's green earth.

I think that is the only attitude we can take at the moment. Let the courts have their say. Let these men whom some hon. members opposite think are guilty have their day in court and not prejudice them in the open as some of us are trying to do this evening. Let them be tried by a judge and a jury of their peers if necessary. Then, if they are guilty, we can discuss the matter again. Let me say this: There is no legislation on earth can make a fool into a wise man.

An hon. MEMBER: You should know.

Mr. MITCHELL: Let me say this to my good socialist friends—

Mr. COLDWELL: We did not say a word. We were just listening, but we were thinking though.

Mr. MITCHELL: Some people find it difficult to think. Let me say to my good socialist friends that some of the thoughts which they have expressed in this House of Commons they will find most difficult to enforce should they ever—and they never will—be charged with the responsibility of administering the affairs of this country. I plead with my returned friends this evening to give these individuals, guilty as they may be from their own personal points of view, the rights to which they are justly entitled, to appear before the courts of this country to be tried by a judge and jury and found to be guilty or innocent. Then we can talk about the matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this discussion started this evening it was mentioned that the matter was before the courts, but the Speaker did not know just what was before the courts. The Minister of Veterans Affairs has stated that there is a criminal and a civil action pending. It is difficult for me to determine when hon. members are discus-

[Mr. Mitchell.]

sing matters which are before the courts, but I think we have been quite close to it at times. I do not want to rule any discussion out of order, but I would ask hon. members to be careful not to discuss a matter which is now before the courts and which might affect anyone concerned in a criminal or civil action. As I say, it is most difficult to determine just when we are discussing matters which are *sub judice*, which all hon. members know is improper to do. I ask for the cooperation of all hon. members.

Mr. C. E. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I have been extremely interested in the rehabilitation of veterans ever since they began coming back from overseas. When I say that I am cognizant of the fact that every member in this house is also much concerned with the welfare of the veterans, having in mind the great sacrifices which some of those men made for this country. I was surprised at the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) making the remark he did, and I just want to refer briefly to that in passing.

Mr. MITCHELL: Have you never played crown and anchor?

Mr. JOHNSTON: I am not confessing my sins tonight. The Minister of Labour went to some pains to state to the house that there should be fair play in this matter and that everybody should have his day in court. It struck me that the Minister of Labour was endeavouring to have the government evade their responsibilities and nicely get out from under the difficulty they found themselves in.

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not think anybody can fairly accuse me of trying to get out from under anything. The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) paid me a compliment in that regard this afternoon. So far as I am concerned, I am not getting out from under anything. The hon. member is imputing motives.

Mr. JOHNSTON: No.

Mr. MITCHELL: Yes, he is.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I said that is what it looked like.

Mr. MITCHELL: If the hon. member wants to talk politics let him do it outside this house.

Mr. JOHNSTON: The Minister of Labour cannot put over anything like that tonight. He has had his day in court and now he should sit down and listen to those who are putting forward their views. It seems to me quite