

*Interim Supply*

be responsible to us only for certain activities and feel that otherwise he can do anything he wants without being responsible to the House of Commons.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce is a man of many interests. According to Leslie Roberts he is referred to as the minister of everything; but he is still a member of the House of Commons and has responsibilities to the members of this house.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** My hon. friend might as well get one thing clear. The shares of Algoma Steel were disposed of by Sir James Dunn in his will and testament. The shares that are being disposed of in the market place are those shares which it is necessary to sell to liquidate the estate of Sir James Dunn and pay his taxes.

**Mr. Knowles:** Is the minister involved in the negotiations with respect to the sale of those shares?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre can try to draw red herrings across this matter and he can talk about \$90 million but there is no such sum involved. The hon. member can read any journal he likes and assume that is correct knowing that I cannot answer it.

**Mr. Knowles:** Does the minister intend to make an announcement after the house rises?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Will I? I will not. The solicitor for the estate in due course may make an announcement about the number of shares sold and who bought them but it is not part of my duty as one of five executors to make any announcement whatever about the affairs of the estate.

**Mr. Knowles:** Is the minister involved in the negotiations with respect to the sale of those shares?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** No, sir.

**Mr. Knowles:** Not at all?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I have discussed the matter with my fellow executors which I am bound to do but I have not discussed the subject with anybody else.

**Mr. Hamilton (York West):** What job did you do?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I carried out my duties.

**Mr. Hansell:** Mr. Chairman, just a word here. I appreciate the discussion that has been taking place in the last little while. I am always interested in matters which are of public interest and which affect the efficiency of government and the people of Canada. In a sense I rise at this time in self

defence in relation to this particular matter and I think hon. members will appreciate what I am referring to in a moment.

It occurs to me that there has been more witch-hunting in the last few weeks in this house than hon. members in this group have ever been accused of at any time. It seems to me that when an hon. member desires to look under the bed to see if a few dollars have been lost it is said that he is doing it because he is a responsible member of parliament but if one rises in his seat with a firm desire to retain the security of this nation to ensure that it will not be turned over to communists then he is accused of witch-hunting.

We in this group were accused from every side of this house of witch-hunting. The other day the hon. member for Moose Mountain surely thought he had detected something of a witch in a closet and he began making his accusation by innuendo. However, that was considered all right. He was considered a responsible member of parliament whose duty it was to look into that matter.

**Mr. Ellis:** One of your colleagues said he was going to raise the matter.

**Mr. McCann:** Come on, Wimpy.

**Mr. Hansell:** The matter was investigated and the whole thing was cleared up but it was not considered that that was witch-hunting.

The other day the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre rose and asked the Prime Minister if he had written to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. You know some day someone is going to write a little history of the House of Commons and they are going to make a comedy of this thing.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, just to keep the record straight—

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Obey the rules.

**Mr. Knowles:** Would the hon. member permit me just to keep the record straight? It is perfectly true that I asked many other ministers that question but I did not happen to ask the question of the Prime Minister. I believe that was done by my friend the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra. I admit I had something to do with seeing that the rest of the ministers were asked that question but I did not happen to ask it of the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Hansell:** Perhaps my hon. friend has a point but it is a very small one.

**Mr. Knowles:** Just the point of accuracy, that is all.