

Interim Supply

Mr. Churchill: Go ahead.

Mr. Pickersgill: I know the hon. Member is talking about a judicial matter and wants to be exceedingly fair. Would the hon. gentleman tell us what it is he understands the Prime Minister was informed of on September 2? Was it not merely that Mr. Denis, an executive assistant to one of his colleagues, was accused of offering a bribe and that this matter was under investigation?

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I will read from the report at page 122, and I might say that I have read the entire report. Perhaps the Minister of Transport has not read it. At page 122 of the Dorion report the following is stated:

It was only on September 2, during the plane trip from Charlottetown to Ottawa, that the Minister of Justice informed the Prime Minister that his Parliamentary Secretary was involved in the Rivard case and supposed to have brought pressures on to the Counsel for the United States Government to incite him to agree to bail being granted to Lucien Rivard.

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to ask the hon. gentleman one more question. The hon. gentleman has said that he has read the report. Did the hon. gentleman read the evidence, because I think if he had he would recall that no evidence to that effect was given at the hearing, but that evidence to the contrary was given by the Minister of Justice. I am sure he will recall that evidence to the contrary was given in this House by the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: That is a most remarkable intervention on the part of the Minister of Transport. I read from the report of Mr. Justice Dorion. Is the Minister of Transport now finding fault with that report?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege and it is this. I am not quarrelling at all with the report, as the hon. gentleman has suggested, and I do not want to get into a quarrel with him. I am sure both of us want to be fair. All I am saying is that even the Chief Justice might conceivably have been mistaken as to a statement of fact, and all of us in this House do know that the evidence on this point was all in the opposite direction. We all know there was not one tittle of evidence produced anywhere to support that statement.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I hope you will make allowances for the time taken up by these interruptions.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

The Minister of Transport now wishes us to refer to the evidence. That is what Mr. Justice Dorion has done. He heard the evidence and he has re-read it, and now through this report he has given us his findings and conclusions. This document has been tabled in the House of Commons for the information of the people of Canada, and are we not now to place any reliance on it? I certainly place reliance on this document, which I think is a fine piece of work. I have confidence in this judge, who I am sure during this long inquiry used the greatest possible care, as he did in reporting his findings.

Mr. Starr: He knows more about it than any of you fellows.

Mr. Churchill: I am sure the judge used great care in preparing his findings for presentation to this House and to the people of Canada. This is a fine summation of the case.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder whether the hon. gentleman would permit me to ask one more question.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Churchill: I do not mind answering a question.

Mr. Pickersgill: Does the hon. gentleman agree with Mr. Justice Dorion's conclusions about the R.C.M.P.?

Mr. Starr: That certainly is a smart question.

● (5:40 p.m.)

Mr. Churchill: I will answer the question, but perhaps the Minister will rise in a minute and apologize to the House for shouting "smear" last November when the hon. Member for Yukon raised this matter.

Mr. Starr: He has not got enough backbone to do that.

Mr. Churchill: With regard to the question asked me by the Minister of Transport, the master of red herrings, of course I accept Mr. Justice Dorion's criticisms and conclusions with respect to certain actions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. But I would say to the Minister of Transport that no police force was more restricted in its operations than that force was when it started and continued its inquiries. Mr. Justice Dorion's report indicates that the police started their inquiries, were then pulled back and restricted, then allowed to proceed and then pulled back again. If we had the full story of what transpired between members of that force and the Ministers of the Crown we