

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: I must add that it is not only in the Province of Quebec but also in the Province of Ontario that the number of judges sitting on commissions or as referees in labour matters has been so considerable that the intervention of the Minister of Justice was required to put a stop to it. According to the letter that you will read tomorrow in *Hansard*, the minister has now pointed out to the Chief Justice that the judges have been appointed to judge in virtue of the Judges Act.

I thought that the letter from the present Minister of Justice to the Chief Justices was called for and was timely; and this is why I have taken the first opportunity, which was a Liberal caucus, to congratulate the minister on this.

The Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec, the Honourable Lucien Tremblay, gave a thunderous echo to the letter from the Minister of Justice, and at a meeting of the Bar he said that the judges who sit on commissions do not have the same privileges they have when they sit in their capacity as judges on the Bench, and that what they say may be taken with a grain of salt. This is not exactly what he said, but this is its meaning. I will come to it in due course. I have the greatest respect for the Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec, and I may say that some of the commissions on which judges have sat have been very useful—and some others quite different.

In the first place, I thank the Leader of the Government again for supplying me with the list of commissions presided over by judges

during a certain period of time. But I may add to that that when the Honourable Norman Rogers was Minister of Labour in the Mackenzie King Government he gave me in 1935 a list of the commissions that had been appointed. He had it in front of him on his desk, and each minister of the Mackenzie King Government at that time had information of that kind in front of him on his desk, and when it was asked for we got it at once; it was there.

How many times have I had to fight to get some information? I gather that the Leader of the Government has been very insistent on getting it, and this is why I am thankful to him. It is no more a matter of course for cabinet ministers to have all the required information before them, with a few exceptions, but it should be the general rule that information of the kind asked for in this question be before the cabinet, in the first place, and be supplied to us upon request.

With regard to the other questions, I hope that the Leader of the Government will be kind enough to remember the service that I rendered him tonight by not insisting upon the adjournment of the motion to another date, so that I will have an answer to the other two questions when we meet together, whether it be in October or November.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I shall certainly do my best.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: And I will never cease to pray.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, November 8, at 8 p.m.
