

Commonwealth Relations

he could again make some reference to the leader of the Progressive Conservative party. He has on nearly every occasion—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. GRAYDON: I shall have to appeal to you again, Mr. Speaker, for protection respecting my position as leader of the opposition. I used last night the word "bully"; I hope I shall not have to use it again, because all I am doing and shall continue to do is to demand my rights—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): A mechanical majority!

Mr. GRAYDON: —in putting our position before the country. The overwhelming majority in the house of this Liberal party, and the no less overwhelming minority outside, are totally inconsistent.

An hon. MEMBER: You will find out.

Mr. GRAYDON: Mr. Speaker, am I to be allowed to continue or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. GRAYDON: I did not interrupt the Prime Minister when he made his statement, and he has been gentlemanly and polite enough not to interrupt me as I have been making mine. Perhaps his followers might take an example from him.

Time after time the Prime Minister has attempted to find some inconsequential reason or basis for directing an attack upon the leader of the Progressive Conservative party.

An hon. MEMBER: Who is he?

Mr. GRAYDON: He is doing it again now. I do not know whether the Prime Minister is slipping, but it seems to me that in his really great day as a statesman he would not have attacked Mr. Bracken on quite so inconsequential a basis as he did to-day. Apparently this is the phrase he objects to:

The Prime Minister has said that Lord Halifax asked us to make a commitment, to fall in line, in any event, with a common policy for the commonwealth in all matters of our external relations.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Does my hon. friend say that that statement is true?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Just keep quiet.

Mr. GRAYDON: The Prime Minister has made his speech.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): The third leader is speaking now. How many leaders have you got there?

[Mr. Graydon.]

Mr. GRAYDON: Perhaps I, too, could get into this debate between the hon. member for York-Sunbury and the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie). But what I want to say is this. The Prime Minister knows very well that the actual effect of the statement he made on a previous occasion was the effect which is conveyed by the statement made here by Mr. Bracken. He is cavilling, as he often does in times of adversity and trouble, at certain words which are used, but the Prime Minister cannot avoid the consequences, either by questioning me, or Mr. Bracken, or anyone else; because there are the facts, and the facts remain to be read by the public from time to time. The public are getting a little tired—

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): —of Bracken.

Mr. GRAYDON: I would say to the hon. member for Northumberland, you people are not so tired but that you want him closer to you than ever.

So far as the public are concerned they believe, and I think properly so, that the job of prime minister of this country is, as my right hon. friend told us so eloquently and forcibly on a previous occasion in this house, in the midst of the war-time period to keep his eye and the government's eye on the ball, as Mr. Churchill suggested. If he does this he will have a large enough job on his hands: perhaps so much of his time will be occupied with the war that he will have to keep both eyes on the job of winning the war, and not one eye on trying to make plans for John Bracken or anybody else. I rise at this time only to say to the Prime Minister that I am amazed and appalled that he should pick such an inconsequential thing as this, the matter of mere wording in a statement as an excuse to make another attack on the floor of this house upon a great Canadian, who—and I say this without unnecessarily reflecting upon the Prime Minister—will measure up to the stature of any living Canadian.

INCOME TAX

QUESTION OF EXTENSION OF DATE FOR FILING OF 1943 RETURNS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): I desire to direct to the Minister of National Revenue a question of very urgent importance, particularly in the riding which I represent. In order to explain it more fully I shall, if I may have permission, read this letter:

We would ask that you endeavour to obtain an extension in connection with the filing date