

Human Rights

I wonder whether the hon. member for St. Mary has more experience or is more qualified than the Prime Minister.

I would ask the Prime Minister if he has more confidence in the advices and decisions of the hon. member for St. Mary than in his own decisions, and in the attitudes he took during the last war?

In my opinion, the hon. member for St. Mary shows more consideration for a few immigrants who have been detained, than he has shown when he was saying during the last election campaign that unemployment was the result of immigration.

Today, in whimpering, the hon. member for St. Mary says we have been brutal towards two or three immigrants during the war.

I would ask the hon. member for St. Mary whether he has changed his mind.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege. The hon. member for St. Denis is distorting what I said. I never referred to immigrants, I referred to new Canadians, who had been in Canada for two or three generations, and the hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Denis), according to his custom, is distorting my words, or at least is interpreting them wrongly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must point out to the hon. member for St. Mary that there is no question of privilege here, but only a matter of interpretation of his own words.

If, after the remarks of the hon. member for St. Denis, the hon. member for St. Mary wants to take issue with some of his points, he will have every opportunity to do so. In the meantime, the hon. member for St. Denis has the floor.

Mr. Denis: When the hon. member for St. Mary made his speech, we let him talk. I should like to be shown the same courtesy.

When the Leader of the Opposition rose in this house to discuss war measures and this bill, he wanted precisely to prevent any infractions in the matter of imprisonment, of which the hon. member for St. Mary had been complaining. The Leader of the Opposition then stated that the bill of rights did not go far enough in restricting the right to arbitrary imprisonment and exile.

At that point, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Walker) rose to say this, and I quote from page 5738 of *Hansard*.

It is the Minister of Public Works who is speaking:

As I understood the Leader of the Opposition, his chief criticism of the Prime Minister's bill of rights was that there should be greater strictures on use of the War Measures Act. We are not introducing the War Measures Act today nor seeking to have it amended. The Liberal government lived under the act for years and did not choose to amend it. If the Leader of the Opposition feels that this act should be amended, there is a time and place to do so; but it has no connection with the bill of rights.

Mr. Walker: May I ask a question? Is it not true that you want a post office?

Mr. Denis: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Walker: Is it not true that you want a post office?

Mr. Denis: If we need a post office, we will not ask a plumber. I will see the postmaster who, I believe, is well aware of the good things that are done and especially of the wrong ones that are done in this field.

The Minister of Public Works was endorsed also by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton). This is what he said, according to page 5789 of *Hansard*:

However, I do want to emphasize that the Leader of the Opposition dragged in a reference to an amendment to the War Measures Act that has nothing to do with the bill of rights at all.

I wonder if those hon. ministers have read the bill or if they talked through their hats.

For their enlightenment, I will remind them that the same bill, at section 6, reads as follows:

Section 6 of the War Measures Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

What is the meaning of the War Measures Act? I put the question to the Minister of Public Works and to the Minister of Justice.

Is the War Measures Act mentioned or not in the bill?

Not only is it mentioned, but in this bill, at section 6, is repealed a provision of the War Measures Act which is replaced by the following:

Sections 3, 4 and 5 shall come into force only upon the issue of a proclamation of the governor in council declaring that war, invasion or insurrection, real or apprehended, exists.

Mr. Speaker, if the bill contains nothing on war measures, I do not understand the meaning of this section.

What I do know, however, is that it seems that two ministers have not read the bill. Or still, they may be shocked by the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition.

Precisely, in order to eliminate the dangers of illegal detention or arbitrary exile on the