

ported on page 2917 of Hansard, in replying to this question, stated that he would leave to the Minister of Finance the decision on that point. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he would bring down these papers and lay them on the table of the House.

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Minister of Finance): No person knows better than my hon. friend, who himself once held a position as a responsible minister, that from time to time the government receives information which it must necessarily consider confidential. It is right, I think, that this should be so because it is not fair to reveal all that we have. There would be no objection to bringing down any information that is not of a confidential nature. The question raised by my hon. friend is a fair one and opens out a rather wide field. If I may be permitted I would observe that during the debate I have been accused of making certain changes because of sentiment in the country. May I remind my right hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) and the House that the sentiment has not been confined to one side. Last year there was a debate in this House and a vote on the question of automobile duties, and I see from Hansard—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is the budget debate on?

Mr. ROBB: No, but I am answering the question that has been asked.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What the minister says has no relation to the question.

Mr. ROBB: I am within the ruling of the Chair. I observe, I say, that six members supporting my right hon. friend, voted for a reduction in these duties. Among the six was one gentleman who is now premier of his province, New Brunswick. The others were the hon. member for Kent, N.B. (Mr. Doucet), the hon. member for York, the hon. member for South Oxford (Mr. Sutherland), the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Ross) and the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Jones).

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Which York is the minister referring to?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is the minister in order in making his budget speech on this occasion? The question asked was whether the government would lay on the table the expert opinions and data with which it said it was armed.

Mr. ROBB: I was proceeding to say that I should have no objection to laying upon the table such information as might properly be brought down. I notice, too, that the chief

whip of the Conservative party (Mr. Boys), who is not in his seat at the moment, speaking at Barrie, is reported:

Protected manufacturers do not raise prices to correspond with foreign-made goods which pay duty. He quoted wholesale prices of auto tires in Canada and the United States, showing certain tires to be somewhat cheaper in Canada. . . . He believed the tariff had been abused by motor car manufacturers and declared himself in favour of lowering the duty on autos.

I am willing to put this information on the table.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Did my vote last year influence the minister? If it did, I was going to say that it was his speech at that time that caused me to change my opinion.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We are to take it from the government, I assume, that the Minister of Finance has now given us all the expert data that he had.

Mr. ROBB: I made it clear that there would be no objection to bringing down such information as was not confidential, but certain information given to the government from time to time must be regarded as confidential.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Are we to take it that everything that is not confidential is down?

Mr. A. J. DOUCET (Kent, N.B.): I would ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb), inasmuch as he has made a second budget speech in which he mentions my name,—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. DOUCET:—whether at the time the discussion to which he refers took place last year, a tariff board had been appointed?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

#### FOREST AIR PATROL

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): I desire to call the attention of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart, Edmonton), to the fact that I have received from High River, Alberta, numerous telegrams asking whether the aerial force patrol of Bow River and Crownsnest forest reserves is to be discontinued. Can the minister give some assurance that this service will be carried on this year?

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior): Yes. Perhaps it was unfortunate that any intimation should have been given that the service was to be withdrawn. Arrangements will be made for this service at High River and, in order to satisfy other gentlemen who may be perturbed, at Le Pas: In fact, wherever any service was carried on it will be continued this year.