

The Budget—Mr. Blackmore

and these falsehoods since having been established as falsehoods beyond the slightest peradventure of doubt.

I must say that I find this account of what happened to veteran Brown incomprehensible and utterly inconceivable, but apparently the thing has happened right here in Canada. The house and the country are entitled to know, and should know without further delay, what steps, if any, any government department has taken to bring to justice the perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes against veteran Brown. We are entitled to know also what machinery the government has set up to discover, liberate and recompense the scores of similar helpless victims probably at present languishing in living graves in insane asylum cells across Canada.

Members who have given some attention to the Thomas Harvey case, which I had the honour of bringing to the notice of the house some weeks ago, will be interested to know that veteran Thomas Harvey told me—almost the first thing he said when he had given his own submission—that there was another man in the insane asylum where he was who was just as sane as anyone could be, and who had been languishing there for twenty-five years.

Another question that ought to be answered—and whatever red tape it is necessary to cut in order to answer it ought to be cut forthwith—is: What adequate measures has any department of the government taken to render impossible the occurrence of like abominations in the future? What steps has the government taken to remove from veteran Brown's record the two falsehoods? It is bad enough if a man's own deeds are recorded in his record. Few people ever succeed in living through life with the record of complete angels. Their own slips are sufficient, but to have a man in the employ of any department of the government free to write with impunity absolute and utter falsehoods into the record of a man, and to have that go by unpunished and unrectified, is a thing which I must say leaves one virtually speechless in contemplation thereof.

I should like to read for the benefit of the members of the house and of the people of the country some quotations from veteran Stuart Brown's own account of his experiences, as the account appears in the January 8, 1949, issue of the Vancouver *Sunday Sun* magazine. I would commend this article to everyone who has a heart for the honour of Canada. It appears in three issues of the paper I have mentioned. Stuart Brown is speaking and the article is called, "They put me in Essondale." The article reads:

I was confined four years to lunatic asylums in British Columbia, put there by persons with rotten motives. Psychiatrists and those who know me well said I was sane then. They say I am sane now. I

[Mr. Blackmore.]

had no criminal record, still have none. But a record of one of the worst sorts of conviction was set down against me, presumably to help frame up my consignment to the asylum.

Also it was recorded that I had been in asylum. I had not.

My removal from Shaughnessy hospital to Essondale was effected by two doctors putting their signatures to the necessary document. I had no recourse.

If I had not finally escaped, and from the wilds of Vancouver island, where I lived on frozen apples and, before being recaptured, pencilled an urgent letter to Lord Tweedsmuir, then governor general of Canada, I'd probably be locked up yet in dismal Colquitz prison asylum near Victoria.

And by the time I had died there, if granted three-score years and ten, my maintenance, at even \$600 a year, would have cost taxpayers about \$20,000.

But, thank God, Lord Tweedsmuir ordered an investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and I am free. Yet I have had no recompense. And, according to the record, I am still insane.

I move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Speaker, and I shall go on with these remarks tomorrow.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO GENERAL ELECTION**

Mr. St. Laurent moved the adjournment of the house.

He said: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) asked if I would indicate the further business to be brought before the house prior to the end of the session. I think it only fair that I should say to the house at this time, in announcing the business for tomorrow, that I have placed a notice on *Votes and Proceedings* to take Wednesday for government business, and asking that on Wednesday the house continue to sit after dinner; also asking that the house sit from eleven o'clock to one o'clock on Thursday morning and each day thereafter to the end of the session. That would leave the usual hour tomorrow and Friday for private and public bills, in the order in which they appear on the order paper. In this motion I am also moving that standing order 28 be not applied on Thursday. That is the standing order which provides that the Speaker leaves the chair without question put. For reasons I shall give in a moment, we are asking that this standing order be suspended so that grievances may be brought up on Thursday when the motion is made that the Speaker leave the chair.

All hon. members know there must be a general election within the next year, and there are a good many reasons why one should be held earlier than that. In the first place there has been a change in the leadership of the government since the general election of 1945; and it has always been my view that I should attempt to get from the people, at as early a date as possible, confirmation of what has been done.