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June 4, 1954.

Dr. Eugene Forsey,  
74 Sparks Street,  
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

Dear Eugene:

Have felt rather badly ever since Tuesday last at not having been able to have more talk with you and your good wife. The event really got beyond us somehow and it has been a lamentation in my heart ever since that I did not spend at least a few minutes with you. As you say, our own children and their children made a great success of the show. They got a little help from us, but not much. Oh yes, I do not forget that my daughters-in-law and daughter were indispensable. Needless to add, Miss Edmondson was pretty much a hostess in herself as well.

Have no trouble whatever answering the questions you ask about the Columbia Ph.D. thesis. Why you should have the burden of restoring to commonsense these inane attempts at writing, I never will know.

With everything you say I agree without the least modification. What the author says about the varying meanings of the term "Minister without portfolio" is just inane nonsense. The Committee of the Privy Council is the Cabinet. There is no difference whatever in the two designations. If "Cabinet Council" is used as the title of a body of men, it means exactly the same thing. In our day we very rarely if ever used it, so my view is the same as yours even though Dawson does agree.

The sample piece of nonsense which you mention in the last complete paragraph of page 1 is an eloquent sample of tommyrot. To talk about Ireland, which now I suppose can only be legitimately applied to the North of Ireland, as having no part in the British tradition is just worse than bosh. To talk about Scotland in the same way is no better.

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 6 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 224)

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