

The house resumed at three o'clock.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

PROVISION FOR PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN

The house resumed from Friday, July 28, consideration in committee of bill No. 161, to provide for family allowances—Mr. Mackenzie King—Mr. Bradette in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. GRAYDON: Before this section of the bill carries I wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister, if I may, to a portion of his remarks made during second reading of the bill. When he was speaking at the end of the debate he gave expression to certain remarks which I think ought to be corrected. They were remarks about which I feel rather keenly. This is what the Prime Minister said as reported at the bottom of the first column of page 5657 of *Hansard*:

I have been amazed—I must say that I speak of these things because I think they ought to be mentioned—at the fact that some men of high position in this country who were brought into the government service to help to carry on the war, knowing what they do about the seriousness of the situation, and how necessary it is that every man of ability who can serve should remain in service to help to win the war, should have left the government service in order, in the crisis of the war, to help organize a political party against the government. That, too, is something that the people of Canada will not forget.

As I see it, that, of course, if I may say so, is a direct reflection upon the patriotism and the motives of the only one to whom it can refer, and that is Mr. Charles P. McTague. Having that in mind I think on reflection that the Prime Minister will want to withdraw any reflection upon the patriotism of Mr. McTague. The reason I raise it is that I think it is a stain and a stigma, particularly coming from the Prime Minister, upon a great Canadian citizen; because I think the Prime Minister would be the first one to agree with me during the last war Mr. McTague served for four years in an active theatre of war, during which time he was gassed and was one of the last to be demobilized after the war was over. He gave three and a half years of his time to government service during this war in connection with wartime activities. Even if Mr. McTague had not done anything in this war he would, I think, have fully discharged any obligations that he had to his country by the splendid service that he gave in the first world struggle. May I go farther than that and say that I do not think it is quite proper for the Prime Minister to reflect—I do not

think he surely could have intended it to be a reflection—upon Mr. McTague's patriotism, because at the very moment that the speech was being made, two of Mr. McTague's sons were fighting in the fighting services of Canada. In all fairness to Mr. McTague the Prime Minister should withdraw the statement, because it is definitely a reflection upon a Canadian who has given great army service in one war and whose family is now fighting for Canada again.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have not anything to withdraw from what I have said. I was speaking in general terms. My hon. friend has seen clearly to whom the reference is.

Mr. GRAYDON: So did you.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes; and may I say that—

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Only one of the two.

Mr. CASSELMAN: The other one has three sons in the service.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps I should say to my hon. friend that I was told by Mr. Justice McTague his reason for wishing to resign was that he desired to return to the bench, that his services were required on the bench and that they were short of judges, and that he felt it was his duty to resign for that reason.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Have you any reason to doubt that he was sincere at that time?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Actions speak louder than words. May I say to my hon. friend that as the Prime Minister of this country I was entitled to be told, if Mr. McTague wanted to leave the service of the government at time of war to take up the duties of organizer of the Conservative party, that that was his reason for resigning.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I say to the Prime Minister that he has not shown the house that Mr. McTague left the government service to go into that job, because he did not go into that job when he left the government service. The Prime Minister knows that full well. In addition to that may I say this. If a man is to be condemned for attempting to build up one of the instruments of the democracy for which this nation is fighting, then I think we are coming to a pretty pass, because we know, and the Prime Minister himself knows, that the man who holds a similar position in his own party is a man who is in the senate of Canada. At the