

Q. Are you prepared to leave them with the committee for the information of the committee, to-day?—A. Well, I would rather be able to call attention to any confidential matters in them, if that is possible.

Q. They would be marked "confidential"?—A. Sometimes, one part of a file is confidential; there might be one report that it would be in the public interest to keep confidential.

Q. As a matter of fact, I believe all these reports and correspondence will be kept strictly confidential within the committee. What I want to know is this: you were called upon by summons yesterday to produce some of this correspondence and these reports, which are very necessary to the deliberations of this committee; what you have in your possession now I believe will be ready before the committee, and will be left with the committee?

Mr. GEOFFRION: May I suggest when the committee examines these files it will be done in the presence of this witness, and if you come to a document in the files which he considers confidential, you might pass upon the question at the time.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: He is to produce the file, anyway?

Mr. GEOFFRION: If he claims something is confidential, the committee will decide whether it is or is not, and how it is to be handled, in view of it being confidential—if it is confidential, because I do not believe you can withhold from publication the whole files. Therefore you have to make what is confidential as regards publication, even if you exhibit them to yourselves. The point will have to be decided which is confidential, and then if it is confidential what you will do with it, and that point cannot be well decided unless the witness is there.

*By Mr. Doucet:*

Q. Have you the file of the Lortie-St. George case?—A. Yes, I think I have.

Q. Are you prepared to leave that file with the members of the committee?—A. If I am instructed to do so, but I would prefer that I be able to point out to the committee if there is anything confidential in it. I am ready to do whatever I am required.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, we must have access to these files. If we are to be denied access to the files the whole thing is a farce. The file ought to be left in the custody of the committee, so that we could have access to it.

The CHAIRMAN: May I suggest that you will have access to them in the presence of the witness?

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I do not care if there are forty witnesses.

Mr. DOUCET: We do not propose to publish these files, but we want them for the benefit of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: When the witness testifies you will have these files and may examine them.

Mr. DOUCET: We want to have access to them.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: All that is intended is that documents on the files should not be used until such times as they have been spoken of by the witness, but the witness has no objection to the committee using the files as much as we like so long as we do not publish anything.

The WITNESS: Yes. I want to preserve the secrecy of our system for one thing, and then things that are only rumours and hearsay about this man's name being mentioned, or that man's name being mentioned, because you sometimes get a detective or an agent who has a vivid imagination, and who will start making statements about everybody.