

reports were being made and rumours circulated that I was constantly in communication with General McNaughton. General McNaughton was chief of staff, and as such he was not responsible to me except as all officers of the public service were. He did undertake the setting up of the camps for the single unemployed through the various provinces. He did that through the Minister of Labour. Whenever I sent for him he always came, but I very rarely saw him. Further, I did not communicate with him except on very few occasions by telephone. To show the extent to which these stories will sometimes go, it was asserted that I had a private telephone between my office and that of General McNaughton. General McNaughton was the most distinguished graduate, except one who ranked with him, of McGill university. No man but one has had a more distinguished academic career than had General McNaughton at McGill university.

Mr. POULIOT: Academic is useless.

Mr. BENNETT: As a soldier he did work on the western front in connection with electrical apparatus and communications that won for him the warmest approval of those who are able to speak with authority. I heard one distinguished Englishman say that as far as he knew—I was most surprised at his statement—if the command of the British forces were to be given to any living man he did not know a more distinguished man than General McNaughton. That was a very strong statement, one at which I wondered at the time. General McNaughton was honoured by his sovereign and was held in the highest esteem by all who had contact with him. I think scholars in every part of the world who know his work recognize his fitness for the particular position which he now occupies. But, Mr. Chairman, I am not concerned about that at the moment; I am concerned that one who cannot speak for himself should be charged with grave offences, because he is said to have been the brain trust of the late government. I would not have him suffer because he has happened to know me, and I would not like to have him suffer because I have known him. I do resent the idea that a man who has such a distinguished record in peace and in war, who offered his life for his country, should be attacked in this chamber in the way he has been to-night, when the allegations made against him are intended to deprive him of a position by endeavouring to link him so actively with the late administration as to charge him with political intrigue or political

[Mr. Bennett.]

activities. Such I assure you, sir, has not been the case.

With respect to Colonel Steel, who happens also to enjoy a rather distinguished reputation and who received the Military Cross for his military services, his offence is that in days past when the Canadian minister to Washington was in Ottawa he consulted with him. I have no hesitation in saying that he did, and the issue was the question of wave lengths in connection with our broadcasting. An agreement was arrived at with the United States authorities, and I can assure the committee that the communications I have received as to the ability, knowledge and capacity of Colonel Steel in dealing with technical questions connected with wave lengths were of a kind of which Canadians would be proud. I mention these matters, sir, because in view of the observations which have been made in the form in which they were made, I should be lacking in a sense of decency and fair play if I did not rise in my place and say these things.

Mr. POULIOT: I rise to a question of privilege. How is it that the leader of the opposition was not called to order, when I was? He was speaking about that man, and was defending him. There is no standing order—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

The CHAIRMAN: I must insist that the hon. member for Témiscouata confine his remarks to the item under discussion.

Mr. POULIOT: How is it that you did not call the right hon. gentleman to order?

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. POULIOT: Your balance is wrong; call an inspector.

Mr. BENNETT: I take it that for the grant made to them certain services are rendered to the country by the Canadian Council on Child and Family Welfare. Perhaps the minister would give some information in this regard, because last year a question was raised which I endeavoured to clear up. I believe I did so.

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of Pensions and National Health): The Canadian Council on Child and Family Welfare was formed in 1920. The work of the council is the preservation of the health of the child, and social welfare. It was incorporated by letters patent, and there are eight divisions of the work. The first is maternal and child hygiene; the second, child care and protection; the third, family