

RICHARD BEDFORD BENNETT, called and sworn.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You are the Prime Minister, Mr. Bennett, referred to in this article?—

A. Yes.

Q. Will you make any statement you care to make to the committee?—A. I was in Calgary when my attention was directed to the charge made against me. I at once denied it. When I came east I found that wide publicity had been given to this story, and on investigation I found that the article had been published in the newspapers of my native province under date of January the 7th, in the *Fredericton Gleaner*, in these words:

That Premier R. B. Bennett had deliberately taken a Canadian Government legal case out of the hands of other lawyers and had given the case to William D. Herridge, his then prospective brother-in-law, so that the honeymoon of Mildred Bennett might be spent in London and the Continent and that the expenses might be charged to the Canadian Government, was charged by Hon. G. N. Gordon, K.C., former Deputy Speaker in the Federal House, speaking to-night to Hamilton Liberals.

Hon. Mr. Gordon confirmed the charge to-day when *The Gleaner* telephoned him at his Peterborough home. "It was a deliberate case of charging the government for their honeymoon trip," he said. "Other lawyers were handling the case which was to come up at the Privy Council. It was taken out of their hands by the Prime Minister and given to Herridge so that Mildred might have a honeymoon trip at the Canadian Government's expense."

Mr. Gordon further charged that Premier Bennett had scoffed at using former Premier King's private car, which was in excellent condition. Mr. Gordon said, "While unemployment and destitution ran rampant throughout the country the Prime Minister, just after he was elected, thought nothing of spending \$125,000 for the building of a new Canadian National private car for his own use. There were several other cars available, and none of them was good enough for Mr. Bennett."

*By Mr. Cantley:*

Q. What paper is that, Mr. Bennett?—A. That is from the *Fredericton Gleaner* of January 7th, 1932. I had further investigations carried on and I ascertained wide publicity had been given to those statements.

*By Mr. Duff:*

Q. In that article which you read from the *Fredericton Gleaner* do they say where they got that information?—A. Yes, just what I read. It is headed "Charges Against Premier Bennett—Special to the *Daily Gleaner* by Leased Wire—Toronto, Jan. 7." It is a syndicate article sent out from Toronto.

Q. But they do not say where they got it from?—A. No.

Q. It is not what Mr. Gordon said?—A. It is in quotation what Mr. Gordon telephoned from Peterboro. When I returned east I saw the matter had been taken in a very serious way by the *Toronto Globe*. An editorial had been written, and I felt that it was necessary in the public interest, as I viewed it, that no man should remain Prime Minister who was stealing public funds for the purpose of assisting anyone else in any particular position. I would just take the charges as they appear and answer them if you will just give them to me.

It is untrue that I financed, or that the government of which I am the head financed the honeymoon trip of my sister to Europe out of the Canadian treasury.