

is one member of this committee. I understand he is an authority on bankruptcy and we feel sure he will be able to contribute a great deal in attempting to arrive at a practicable revision of the Act. We also have Mr. Carignan who is a very distinguished lawyer in Montreal and who has a great deal to contribute to the revision of the Act. We have the young superintendent of bankruptcy who is a lawyer well versed in this subject and who is taking his job very seriously. I have the greatest esteem for him.

● (1:10 p.m.)

I met with this committee not very long ago and I can tell hon. members that the committee was surprised at the amount of work that had already been done on this question in the study of briefs as well as in preparations for the revision of the act. One member of the committee told me that because of the work that had already been done within the department it may not take a year for them to make their report.

Included in our considerations of the revision of the Act, I think hon. members will agree that a hard and long look should be taken also at the Winding-up Act which I understand has caused some difficulties in the past.

**Mr. Nielsen:** May I ask the minister at this stage under which minister's jurisdiction the Winding-up Act comes?

**Mr. Cardin:** Ours.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Of the three ministers?

**Mr. Cardin:** Mine. I should like to remind the committee that there are plans to set up a permanent registration for recording complaints made to trustees, something, strange as it may seem, that has never been done since the inception of that act. I submit respectfully to the committee that these are practicable, useful measures which may not eradicate the problem completely but which go a long way toward arriving at a solution.

When one listens to the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Yukon one gets the definite idea that not only has the government done absolutely nothing in the field of bankruptcy since it has been in power but that somehow we actually invented bankruptcy, that there were virtually no fraudulent bankruptcies before 1963.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** They have multiplied three times in total under this government.

**Mr. Cardin:** Just a moment.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** No more blackmail.

### *Supply—Justice*

**Mr. Cardin:** The hon. member says, no more blackmail. Just listen and let us see what is true.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Kierans told us what was true, that the Department of Justice could not operate under this government.

**Mr. Cardin:** The other day the hon. member for Yukon, in referring to the Mercier report, intimated he had never seen a more condemnatory report. Never in his lifetime had he seen a more condemnatory report. Apparently he has not read it because the period covered by the Mercier report extends from January 1, 1959 to February 1, 1965. This means that the Mercier report is four times more condemnatory of the Conservative party than it is of us because it covers a period of four and a half years of Conservative administration compared to one and a half years of our administration.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is not what the hon. Mr. Kierans said.

**Mr. Cardin:** We will get to what he said. The offences in relation to bankruptcy which were recently prosecuted in Quebec were committed as far back as 1959. They included arson, fraud, perjury, theft and conspiracy. Well, Mr. Chairman, what did Sherlock Holmes do about these scandals that occurred in his time? Did he put any questions on the order paper? Did he inform the press by giving it information that his government was corrupt? Did he travel around the country with a magnifying glass looking for evidence.

**Mr. Nielsen:** May I ask the minister if he is saying that the previous administration was corrupt?

**Mr. Cardin:** I beg your pardon?

**Mr. Nielsen:** May I ask the minister if what he is saying is that the previous administration was corrupt?

**Mr. Cardin:** No, I asked why the hon. member did not say it was corrupt if the Mercier report is as condemnatory as he implied it was but according to him exclusively of the present administration—

**Mr. Nielsen:** Who said so?

**Mr. Cardin:** You did.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Cardin:** Look at your speech.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Cardin:** I say that there has been a bankruptcy problem and that problem existed