

Mr. CRERAR: It was suggested to me when the Minister of Finance completed his income tax bill that Mr. Speaker would like to dispose of his estimates. I immediately gave way to Mr. Speaker as a courtesy to him. There was not a thought in my mind, it never entered my mind for a moment, that any injustice was being done to the hon. member for Simcoe East. It was simply to give Mr. Speaker the opportunity to put his estimates through. And when his estimates were through I went on with mine. I wish to say to my hon. friend that my estimates were not stopped in the middle last night to go on with Mr. Speaker's.

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): I am very sorry to have to take issue with the minister. The record is on *Hansard*. He had just completed those of his estimates which had to do with Indian Affairs—

Mr. CRERAR: No, no.

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): We may as well have this straight. In *Hansard* for July 31, 1942, at the bottom of the left hand column of page 5108, item 176, an item concerning national parks, amounting to \$65,800, was discussed as follows:

Mr. MacNicol: Why is this vote not included in item 142?

Mr. Crerar: They were special projects originating under special votes of a few years ago. . . .

Item agreed to.

Then comes:

LEGISLATION

House of Commons.

116. General administration—estimates of the Clerk, \$494,895.

Then follows a long statement which was placed on *Hansard* by Mr. Speaker without being read, ending on page 5112, near the bottom of the second column. The next item is:

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT OF CANADA

339. Administration of soldier settlement and British family settlement, \$571,858.

I did not want to speak at length, but the fact remains that these estimates were sandwiched in between other estimates of the Minister of Mines and Resources, who was then leading the house.

Mr. CRERAR: I was in error in the statement I made a moment ago, as to the precise time at which Mr. Speaker's estimates were introduced; but I wish to say to my hon. friend, and I ask him to accept my word, that there was no thought in my mind at all of sandwiching Mr. Speaker's estimates in between those of two branches of my own department. It never entered my mind at all that

[Mr. G. A. McLean.]

the hon. member was particularly interested in those estimates. Since I was looking after the work of the house it would have been an easy matter for my hon. friend to suggest to me that he wanted to be present when Mr. Speaker's estimates were discussed, and if I had been so informed it could have been arranged. I extended to the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) the courtesy of advising him last night when my estimates would come up again, because I knew he was particularly interested in one item to which he wished to speak. I do hope the hon. member for Simcoe East will take my word on that point. It was not in my mind at all that my hon. friend wished particularly to discuss Mr. Speaker's estimates; and those estimates were introduced at that time simply as a courtesy to Mr. Speaker, which I think everyone will agree was the proper thing to do when he desired to bring his estimates in.

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): With the greatest of pleasure I accept the statement of the minister. I should have been very sorry indeed to think that any member of the cabinet would have been a party to anything like this. I am very glad that the minister is absolved from any blame.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Speaker Lemieux used to present his own estimates.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the criticism that has been offered with regard to the administration of the House of Commons, I had prepared a statement which I wished to place on *Hansard*, in order that hon. members and the country as well might know just how the administration of this house is conducted. There was no arrangement made, so far as I knew, with regard to the introduction of the Speaker's estimates in the committee. I was anxious to have them put through, because there are very many other matters that have to be attended to after that is done. I sat in the house yesterday waiting for an opportunity for these estimates to be called. I did not consult with the Minister of Mines and Resources, who was leading the house, nor did I consult or discuss with anyone as to the time when these estimates should be brought in. I quite admit that I indicated my desire to have these estimates brought in, but the hon. member for Simcoe East was in the house all evening. It may have been that at the moment these estimates were called he was not present—

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): Certainly that is a fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member was not present; nevertheless the estimates were