

Proposed Committee on Unemployment

words of a man who wrote the life of Mr. King and who, whatever disagreement there may be with some of his statements, has certainly not been guilty of being too critical of the Liberal party. Those are his words, not mine.

The economic disaster that preceded world-wide unemployment came to this country while a Liberal government was in power. The stock market crash came in October of 1929. That was not the beginning of the economic storm. That storm began in this country three years previously, with the accumulation in western Canada of the surplus which had not been disposed of. This was a progressive problem which had been examined and discussed, and those who were so critical in those days of the warnings that were given were the men who right up to the break on the stock market in October of 1929 were talking of unending prosperity in this country. No, Mr. Speaker, I leave that statement of the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) there, but I leave it there in the hope that he will reconsider his position, that he will recall the number of occasions on which he has indicated his respect for the institution of parliament, and that he will on second thought decide to ask unanimous consent to expunge from the record words that can only be a reflection on his own place here in parliament and which certainly should be disavowed without any hesitation by the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Howe) in view of the uniform respect we all demonstrated so short a time ago for the great office of prime minister of Canada, whoever may occupy it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while the Acting Prime Minister is temporarily absent from the house, there are other ministers here. Whether or not they care to take the course open to them, they can at least convey these remarks to the Acting Prime Minister.

Mr. Pouliot: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. gentleman if he is through with that part of his speech?

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, it will be quite clear when I have concluded the remarks I propose to make.

Mr. Pouliot: I rise on a question of privilege. According to the British parliamentary tradition, no member of parliament is supposed to be abused by anyone else. I was not here when the hon. member started his speech and a friend of mine told me that he was lecturing me about what I said yesterday. Sir, I must not make a long speech—

Mr. Drew: You are not allowed to make a speech at all.

[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. Pouliot: —but I must defend my position. The hon. gentleman challenged me—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rowe: He is making a speech.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has not chosen the right time to defend his position. The Leader of the Opposition now has the floor. If the hon. member wishes to ask him a question and he agrees he shows his agreement by resuming his seat. Then the hon. member may ask his question. The hon. member for Temiscouata proceeded to ask the Leader of the Opposition a question. The Leader of the Opposition did not give his consent, and then the hon. member for Temiscouata rose on a question of privilege. From what he has said so far I gather that what the hon. member wants to do is to defend his position, and this the hon. member must do later. If by defending his position the hon. member means that he wants to correct a misinterpretation by the Leader of the Opposition of certain statements that the hon. member made when speaking yesterday, I am afraid I will have to wait until the Leader of the Opposition has concluded his remarks or until the amendment to the amendment is disposed of. He can then take advantage of his right to speak on the amendment, or perhaps later on the main motion, whenever he wishes, but at the moment he cannot interrupt the speech of the Leader of the Opposition on a question of privilege so as to defend his position. He will have to do that at a later stage.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the hon. member was in the house earlier and that if he was absent during any part of my remarks it is most certainly not my responsibility. He has been in the house during the major part of my remarks and is fully informed as to the import of what I have been saying.

Mr. Pouliot: That is why I want to answer you right away by telling the truth.

Mr. Brooks: That will be an experience for you.

Mr. Pouliot: I have always spoken the truth.

An hon. Member: Dirty Tories.

Mr. Pouliot: No, Progressive Conservatives.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Since the hon. member was not allowed to intervene in the debate at this time may I suggest that no reference should be made to the fact that he was not able to do so.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, it must be remembered that the remarks to which I have taken exception were directed to a situation in