

As you know, I occupy and have occupied for five years a position of very considerable importance and responsibility in the public affairs of the Dominion. If guilty of the conduct alleged against me by Mr. Hepburn, I am not fit to discharge the duties which now are mine. ~~That~~ being the case, I cannot but think you will agree with me that the least I am entitled to is a Judicial investigation of my conduct. There is no place or forum to which I can appeal for such Judicial investigation except to yourself and the Government of which you are the head. I am sure you would not for a moment think it <sup>a matter of</sup> right that he who should be the judge of my guilt or innocence, of momentous consequence to me, should be himself <sup>virtually</sup> in the service of the man who has made the allegations and one whose fate as a public servant depends entirely on the will of that man and of his colleagues. Such a proposal needs only to be stated to be crushingly condemned.

It may be suggested that the appropriate action would be to ask for a Committee of the Senate to take these charges into consideration and make report. I have on previous occasions stated in the Senate that if any Member of that House thought there was reason for appointment of a Committee to enquire into my conduct, I would support such a motion and ask all others to support it. No one at the time, or since, has taken such a course. If I, myself, were to <sup>be asked</sup> to have appointed, directly or indirectly, a Committee of the House in which my political friends are in the majority, to act as the arbitrators of my fate in this matter, the rejoinder would immediately come that I was seeking exculpation at the hands of my friends. I do not want such a rejoinder to be possible and I do not think I should be asked to take a course which would make such a rejoinder possible.

I, therefore, appeal to you, with all the earnestness of which I am capable, to provide for a truly Judicial enquiry, under the Enquiries Act of Canada, into the charges so made by Mr. Hepburn, and into everything related thereto. While I am entirely prepared, and indeed would welcome, the extension of such enquiry into the matters covered by my conduct as a Hydro Commissioner, I am compelled to recognize the fact that <sup>review</sup> this conduct has already been made the subject of Judicial enquiry and that my appeal in respect thereof may on that account be held not to have force. As respects, however, the other section of Mr. Hepburn's <sup>allegations</sup>, I really cannot see how my request of you, can be denied. I ask that you put yourself in my position and