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friendly, and I would be sorry if it would be interrupted in any way. I do not know how that will appear, but as I say it is a matter of no consequence so far as this examination has gone on. I do not go into it at all to accentuate any difficulty between the government and myself. After a course of years these difficulties must arise, but what I had in my mind was to endeavour to make things better, as I thought they would be better, to make the mode of dealing with these accounts better. A person who has been here as long as I have, if he has his work at heart at all, you could not prevent him from wishing to see things better. Well, the thing on which most stress was laid was that I said that the government knew this. Well, Mr. Schreiber has said that he had consulted the law clerk of his department. Well, now, you would consult the law clerk when going in there, if you were not the chief person in the department—probably, I am speaking without knowing the procedure—you would go to Council on an important matter. Mr. Schreiber said he consulted the law clerk, but I would think that this was a thing that he would naturally in the first place take to the Department of Justice. The law clerk, as I take it, has no standing at all in the law outside of the assistance that he might give to the department in ordinary work. But about determining anything else, it appears to me on a thing so far-reaching as the paying on reports on such a claim as this, that he would naturally consult his minister. Is it not fair to assume that that would be done by the deputy ?

*By Mr. Sinclair :*

Q. Does the witness say it is fair to assume that if Mr. Schreiber—

A. No, I withdraw that statement, if you will let me, altogether.

Q. Why should the time of this committee be taken up with assuming things that are not correct ?

A. I am freely withdrawing that.

*By Mr. Barker :*

Q. I understand Mr. McDougall is explaining how he happened to make that statement the other day.

A. That now turns out to be wrong. I say it is fair to assume that. I withdraw that altogether when Mr. Schreiber tells me he did not. There is the end of that so far as I am concerned. That is all I have to say.