

By Mr. Bradette:

Q. Your point applies to specific cases in your department, not in the general tenor of legal activities in accountancy and financing?—A. I am referring purely to transactions that do not affect materially any individual or the public. Within the framework of administration. That is essentially what I am after; in order that the accounts be kept as simply and as clear as possible.

By Mr. Richard (Ottawa East):

Q. Is not that just what exists in our other departments; there are too many administrative problems being referred to the Department of Justice, and departmental heads are not taking upon themselves sufficient authority to decide their own problems?

By Mr. Cruickshank:

Q. From where I am sitting I have heard some private conversations and some mumbling, and I want Mr. Sellar and the members of the committee to understand that if I cannot hear what is going on I will stay in my own room. I have a question to ask, and it is this: would it be warranted to have a new branch established in the Department of Justice staffed by legal experts and experts in business accounting to advise all departments of the government on all legal and financial problems on government expenditures?—A. Mr. Cruickshank, in reply to your question I do not think we need any new section in the Department of Justice. It is a good department. Do not think I am reflecting on them in what I am saying. All I am interested in is having the public accounts kept simply and clearly so that the members of the House of Commons can readily grasp what is involved. I have referred to paragraph 91 in my reports today and to the fact that when you are looking at the Foreign Exchange Control Board you want to know how much money was made in the year. The report shows \$10,000,000. Actually there was another \$5,000,000 which was charged up as a fiction of interest on loans. Really it was \$15,000,000. It would be desirable to see it all in the one place. That is my reason for introducing this matter. We have a good Department of Justice; and do not think that I am reflecting on it in any way. I do think they are overloaded with questions they should not have to deal with.

Q. Have they sufficient staff? Would you say that the Department of Justice has a sufficient staff?—A. I would not like to answer that question.

The CHAIRMAN: May I suggest that members follow the example set by Mr. Cruickshank and rise when they address the committee. It might help us to hear everybody better. Mr. Richard asked a question a short time ago. Perhaps he would repeat it.

By Mr. Richard (Ottawa East):

Q. I was asking a question of Mr. Sellar as to what is the situation in all departments and whether administrative heads do not take enough upon themselves to answer their own administrative problems, and refer too many matters to the Department of Justice.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I suggest it is an unfair question.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: May I suggest that Mr. Sinclair stand up.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I suggest that is an unfair question, to ask him to comment on or condemn the other departments.

Mr. RICHARD: The Minister of Finance, then.