

Changes in the Ministry

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): May I add this brief word, Mr. Speaker. In the death of our late colleague, Mr. Joseph Harris, the weight of toil in the public service has taken its toll. We have this morning heard fitting tribute expressed to his public service, to his industry and success in business, and to his concern for the welfare of his fellow citizens. Half of his life was spent in the public service of Canada in this House of Commons, a rare record. As one who valued him as a personal friend and loyal comrade, I would say that as long as unstinting public service is appreciated and recognized by Canadians the name of Joseph Harris will be cherished in grateful memory.

Mr. G. J. Tustin (Prince Edward-Lennox): I should like to take a minute to add a few words, since I knew Joe Harris longer than anyone in this house. I can remember that the first day I attended public school, Joe Harris called for me and we went to school together. We were in the same class throughout the whole of public school, and left public school on the same day. Since that time we have always been friends. For many years we were neighbours. Mr. Harris was born on the south side of the concession road and I was born on the north side, almost directly opposite.

I think every member of this house will agree with what has been said this morning about Joseph Harris. He was a brilliant scholar in his younger days. He continued his education, attaining a master of science degree, and used his scientific knowledge to improve the products of the firm with which he was connected. I believe everyone will agree he was a successful manufacturer and industrialist. As a tribute to his judgment I think it can be said that not once in his long business career did a strike ever take place in his plant, and he had a considerable number of employees.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with those who preceded me in extending our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Harris and the members of the family.

THE MINISTRY**ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES—MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND SOLICITOR GENERAL**

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I should like to mention at this time the changes that have taken place in the ministry since the adjournment of the house last July. Hon. R. W. Mayhew was appointed ambassador and minister plenipotentiary of Canada in Japan. Hon. James Sinclair was appointed Minister of Fisheries on October 15. On the same day Hon. Ralph O. Campney was appointed Solicitor General.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

I should like to table the relative orders in council dealing with those appointments, and to add that Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Campney, before taking the oaths of office as ministers of the crown, resigned as parliamentary assistants to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) and the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) respectively.

ORDERS FOR RETURNS**INQUIRY AS TO TABLING**

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has been tabling certain reports, I think it appropriate at this time that I should point out that eighteen orders for returns, adopted by this house, are outstanding as yet. I wonder if it is the intention to table those this morning?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I have not ascertained whether there are eighteen, but I know a number are going to be tabled immediately.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask whether the Minister of Justice is going to table at this time any document under the Combines Investigation Act?

Mr. Garson: Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be preferable that that should be tabled in the new parliament in order that it may be discussed there if hon. members wish to do so. It has already been made public.

Mr. Knowles: The new session, I hope.

Mr. Garson: Yes; the new session.

Mr. Drew: Before you conclude the business of the session, Mr. Speaker, might I point out that even with the returns that have been tabled, this still leaves ten orders for returns not tabled. I would ask the government what they propose to do with regard to them, so we shall not conclude this session without knowledge as to the status of those orders for returns which were passed by this house and which the government is therefore under an obligation to place before us.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Speaker, we hope to have those orders tabled in the near future. Seeing that we shall be sitting continuously from this afternoon on, I do not think there will be much delay.

Mr. Drew: In order that we may understand the position, I would point out that what has been said should go much further than that. I think that the minister who has just spoken should undertake that the orders for returns now outstanding will be accepted as orders for returns, and that the house will receive them.