

Mr. GREEN: I rise to a point of order. The Prime Minister has accused me of defying Mr. Speaker.

An hon. MEMBER: So you did.

Mr. GREEN: The Prime Minister has raised that point, and I suggest he must withdraw his statement.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Just a moment. I rose for another purpose.

Mr. GREEN: Just a minute.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I ask my hon. friend to withdraw the statement he made with regard to myself.

Mr. GREEN: On a point of order, I would ask that the Prime Minister be ordered to withdraw his statement.

Mr. GARDINER: Withdraw your statement.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Before the hon. member spoke I raised a point of order with respect to his saying that I was trying to shut the mouths of members of parliament. I asked that that statement should be withdrawn. I do not think my hon. friend has withdrawn it.

Mr. GREEN: I will withdraw it. The effect may have been that, but I withdraw that statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already given a ruling. The hon. member is an experienced parliamentarian and a competent lawyer. He states on his responsibility as a member that what he is preparing to read is relevant to the reference to the committee, which is the subject-matter of the motion. If the hon. member is satisfied that this is perfectly relevant to it—and of course I cannot say until I have heard it whether it is relevant or not—I ask the hon. member to complete his statement with regard to what he says is relevant to it.

Mr. GREEN: Perhaps we can get everything in order, if the Prime Minister will now withdraw his statement that I was defying Your Honour. I ask that that statement be withdrawn.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have no desire to embarrass my hon. friend in any way.

Mr. GREEN: You are not embarrassing me, but I want it withdrawn.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am quite prepared to withdraw it. But I am doing so because my hon. friend says from now on he is going to try to have peace and order.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. GREEN: Now, Mr. Speaker, this paragraph—

Mr. CLEAVER: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. GREEN: They do not like this paragraph.

Mr. CLEAVER: I state that the hon. member is reading from a war expenditures committee report which will be properly under discussion when the motion now on the order paper is before the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not for me to make a tit-for-tat ruling. I must hear what the hon. member reads and must judge then whether he is in order or not. But I am placing the responsibility for its relevancy on the hon. member himself, who is an experienced parliamentarian and an accomplished lawyer.

Mr. CLEAVER: Will Your Honour ask him if he is reading from a war expenditures committee report?

Mr. GREEN: If I may be allowed to go on I am suggesting that this paragraph should be considered by the public accounts committee, that they should be given authority and power wide enough to be able to consider it. It reads:

In its investigations the subcommittee found in one instance that an aircraft producing firm agreed to pay a salesman for release of an existing sales contract an amount equal to fifty per cent of its firm capital and which agreement the subcommittee believes to be an improvident agreement and should not have been entered into had the facts been brought to the attention of the department promptly.

I submit that that should be considered by the public accounts committee. And may I say again, if this is to be left to a private member to raise there will be no results obtained. Members of the ministry say a private member has the right to have these questions aired, but in actual practice they are not aired unless it is the policy of the government that they should be. Therefore I ask the Prime Minister to let us know to-day what the government's policy is with regard to the matters to be considered by the public accounts committee. I ask him to give us the assurance that the ministry will recommend to the public accounts committee not only that they call Colonel Thompson but also that they consider these reports by last year's war expenditures committee, and further will recommend to the public accounts committee that there should be the widest possible investigation of all public expenditures right up to date, not only expenditures that were made prior to April 1, 1942, but expenditures right up to the present time. In conclusion may I point out to the