

Wednesday a newspaper published in my home city of Quebec carried a leading editorial, over half a column, in respect of this incident.

Mr. GRAYDON: Which paper?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The *Chronicle-Telegraph*. It states:

To hold Mr. St. Laurent responsible for the outcome of legal proceedings would be unreasonable. In the event of an investigation being held, we have perfect confidence in the ability of the defendant who may have been sailing close to the wind to free himself on one technical ground or another. But all the more on this account the minister could afford to make a show of doing his duty by undertaking to consult the officers of his department, instead of curtly snubbing the opposition for doing their duty in questioning him.

I certainly had no intention of snubbing the opposition, or anyone; and I hope that impression was not conveyed to the leader of the opposition with whom I had the exchange in that connection.

Mr. GRAYDON: Perhaps the newspaper may have meant, from that, that the minister was pretty quick to say that he was going to make no investigation in respect to it.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I did not say I was going to make no investigation. I said I had not undertaken to make any.

Mr. GRAYDON: That is not my recollection, but I shall not quarrel with the minister.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: And the editorial continues:

That the position of Mr. St. Laurent is a difficult one, in view of electoral complications, no one can gainsay. But the obligations of his office are unchanged on that account. And if any man would insist on justice being done "though the heavens fall", that man is he, admiring observers of his previous career would have sworn. That he has not shown himself strong enough to do so is unfortunate for Canada and as already suggested, keenly disappointing to themselves.

I do not mind personal criticism; that is of no real importance. But, Mr. Speaker, even during election time we should maintain some sense of proportion and perspective. And I submit that what is unfortunate is not that Mr. Dumoulin is not prosecuted, but perhaps, that so many of us in Canada appear to be too unwilling to give to matters which are important the whole of our time and attention in the order of their respective importance.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I would not be so thin-skinned.

Mr. GRAYDON: With respect to the Dumoulin matter, may I say that the

investigation, as I see it, is not very complete, nor is it very conclusive. One thing that strikes me is that Mr. Dumoulin himself has never come out and denied the statement that he is alleged to have made.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I am sick and tired of hearing the Quebec election fought every day across the floor of this house.

Mr. CHURCH: I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he could tell us—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar has the floor.

Mr. GRAYDON: The Minister of Justice has raised some question as to the stand I took regarding the Dumoulin matter when it was brought up in the house and about which an editorial appeared in a Quebec newspaper. At page 5252 of *Hansard*, of July 24, I asked this question:

Has the Minister of Justice any report to make on the progress that has been made in the investigation of statements alleged to have been uttered by Jacques Dumoulin in the Quebec election?

The Minister of Justice replied, and it is upon this reply I think that the editorial was based:

I am not having any investigation made as to the statement alleged to have been made by Jacques Dumoulin in the Quebec election, nor have I ever stated that I was going to.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That was a statement that was absolutely true. There was no investigation being made at that time. That was not a refusal to make an investigation.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I say this?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. GRAYDON: I know, Mr. Speaker, that we have had a long series of questions on the order of the day, but this is extremely important. I just want to say this. The Minister of Justice says that he did not refuse. I would like to know what he meant when he said this:

I am not having any investigation made as to the statement alleged to have been made by Jacques Dumoulin.

That is what I took as a straight refusal.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That is quite clear. It is a statement that at that time I was not having any investigation made and was therefore not in a position to be receiving a report.

Mr. GRAYDON: When somebody says he is not going to do something, I take that as a refusal.