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That is contrary to the fact and contrary to responsible government. Hon. members, especially those supporting the government, do their work most effectively and use their influence before the legislation ever comes into the House of Commons.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. KINLEY: I subscribe to the sentiment expressed in the Scripture:

Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?

NATIONAL HEALTH

QUESTION AS TO INTRODUCTION THIS SESSION OF HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Pensions and National Health. Would the minister care to comment on the prevalent rumour that the government proposes this session to introduce legislation designed to provide a national scheme of health insurance?

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Pensions and National Health): The answer to the question is in the negative. However, there were certain discussions departmentally last June on the question of national health, as a result of which certain departmental proposals have been canvassed thoroughly with the Canadian Medical Association, the dental profession, the nursing association and the hospitals of Canada. On the outcome of this canvassing the departmental policy will be determined.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

PROBLEMS OF THE FARMER—SUBMISSION OF CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it proposed to convene at once the standing committee on agriculture and, if so, will an opportunity be afforded in that committee, or in a special committee, for a comprehensive consideration and exhaustive review of the more pressing problems facing the Canadian farmer at the moment?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): It is intended to have the committee on agriculture convene just as soon as possible and there are certain matters which I, as Minister of Agriculture, intend to refer to that committee. These do not necessarily include the matters referred to. If there is no other opportunity provided during the session, there is always opportunity when the estimates are [Mr. Kinley.]

being discussed of obtaining whatever information can be given by the department with regard to different matters.

Mr. GRAYDON: I was wondering if the minister had in mind referring to the committee any of the problems which were raised in the submission of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture which met the Prime Minister and members of the government in January?

Mr. GARDINER: I have not given consideration to that, but I shall give consideration to it.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

KIRKLAND LAKE STRIKE—PROTECTION OF TRADE UNIONISTS

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. DORISE W. NIELSEN (North Battleford): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour, of which I have given him notice. It arises from a telegram received this morning from Sudbury, which reads as follows:

Forest Emmerson, international representative, and Jack Whelehan, international organizer, have been brutally and viciously assaulted in union office. Organizers in hospital: Union office completely demolished. Thugs demanded list of union membership. We believe this direct reaction of government policy in Kirkland Lake strike. Incessant anti-union campaign conducted by Sudbury Star. A committee of Sudbury miners request this to the attention of our government.

A. K. Smith,
J. McCool,
W. Cavanaugh,
J. Navalkoski.

Has the minister any information in regard to this matter and, if so, would he please make a statement to the house?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): My answer to the first question is no. My answer to the second question is that, as no doubt my hon. friend knows, the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order is primarily that of the municipalities and provincial governments.

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice which arises out of a telegram similar to the one just read by the hon. member for North Battleford. One of the organizers who is now in hospital, due to the assault described in the telegram read by the hon. member, is a United States citizen legally admitted to this country as a representative of organized labour. I should like to ask what protection the Royal Canadian Mounted Police gives to officials who are endeavouring to

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carry out instructions issued by the government as contained in order in council P.C. 2685. Can the minister give the house an assurance that there will be a thorough investigation into the complaint contained in the telegram read by the hon. member for North Battleford?

Hon. L. S. St. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): The only answer I could give to the hon. member would be similar to that given already by the Minister of Labour. The hon. member was good enough to address a letter to me containing a copy of the telegram, and I made inquiries from the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He told me that he had no information and wished to point out that the responsibility for maintaining order there was upon the municipal police of Sudbury and the provincial police of Ontario.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice following the question raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton South. This is a very serious situation, and I do not think it should be passed over as lightly as it was by both the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Labour. If labour causes any disturbance in any area—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Other hon. MEMBERS: Put the question.

Mr. MacINNIS: Just a moment, now. Parliament cannot afford to ignore this matter. I am saying that if labour causes any disturbance in any area the government would very soon send in the mounted police, and I think that at the present moment the government should give every assurance that these people will be protected. What protection are trade unionists going to have in this matter?

Mr. HOMUTH: The marriage is not so happy after all.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It seems to be dissolved already.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I should like to point out that the practice is becoming prevalent of putting supplementary questions following original questions submitted to the ministry. That means almost a general debate on questions that have been put to the ministry, who have given an answer to the original question. Furthermore, in the asking of questions, expressions of opinion are being given and statements of fact made. These are not questions addressed to the ministry, and I would ask hon. members to remember that on questions put to the ministry on the orders of the day there can be no general debate, and supplementary questions should be prohibited.

Mr. MacINNIS: Mr. Speaker, I have been very careful not to make speeches in asking questions, but we cannot afford to leave this matter to the gorillas who are at the present time running the province of Ontario.

Mr. HOMUTH: I rise to a point of order. While I have no brief for the Premier of Ontario, and I do not think he particularly needs any defence, I submit that hon. members of this house ought to show respect for the premier of any province of the Dominion of Canada, and under the rules of the house, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacINNIS) had no right, I submit, to use the term he did with reference to Premier Hepburn, when he called him a gorilla. I think he ought to withdraw that remark.

I should like a ruling on my point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not understand that the hon. member had asked for a ruling. An hon. member must take responsibility for any statement he makes with respect to somebody who is not a member of the house. If it were a member of the house it would be a different matter.

[Later:]

Mr. SPEAKER: With reference to the point raised by the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Homuth), citation 294 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms reads:

If a member should say nothing disrespectful to the house or the chair, or personally opprobrious to other members, or in violation of other rules of the house he may state whatever he thinks fit in debate, however offensive it may be to the feelings, or injurious to the character, of individuals; and he is protected by his privilege from any action for libel, as well as from any other question or molestation.

WHEAT

LEGISLATION RESPECTING 1942 CROP—RECOMMENDATIONS OF POOL DELEGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): I wish to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce two questions. This question follows one asked by the hon. member for Lake Centre. The farmers of the west are anxious to know just what will be required of them this spring, whether there is to be any reduction in seeding, and so on, and what is going to happen with respect to price and marketing. Would the minister inform the house, first, when he will be prepared to bring down legislation dealing with the price for the 1942 crop and its marketing? My second question is prompted by the statement of the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Kinley)