

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): My information, from a legal authority, is that they could not.

Mr. CRERAR: I did not interrupt my hon. friend, and I would ask him not to interrupt me. The Alberta government could have appointed a royal commission; they could have subpoenaed Mr. Max Ball, and they could have subpoenaed every person on the work. They could have investigated everything. Why did they not do so?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I just told you why.

Mr. CRERAR: And I will tell you why: Because Mr. Fallow knew that he could not substantiate the charges he was making in the Alberta legislature. That is why they did not do so.

Then, to make matters worse, the hon. member comes here and retails all this gossip which Mr. Fallow retailed in the legislature. And on the basis of that he demands that this government appoint a royal commission. I will tell the hon. member right now that if he will rise in his place and make these charges against the government, and stake his responsibility as a member upon it, he will get his investigation.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Not my responsibility, at all.

Mr. CRERAR: When my colleague the Minister of Pensions and National Health suggested that to the hon. member a moment ago, what did he say? "Oh, no; oh, no. Nine years ago I might have done it, but not now."

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is right, too.

Mr. CRERAR: In other words, "I have learned something since then."

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): You are telling me!

Mr. CRERAR: Might I say he has learned since then that he is not going to risk his precious political skin on any proposition of that kind.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The government has taken the same stand.

Mr. CRERAR: I ask the members in this committee: Is there any reasonable basis for the demand that a royal commission be appointed?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The hon. member for Davenport agreed with me.

Mr. CRERAR: I will say more than that: The government is making an honest effort to see that the possibilities in these sands are worked out. What my hon. friend has said this afternoon and evening, to get some headlines in the papers, and possibly to get on the radio at ten o'clock to-night—

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I do not care whether it is or not.

Mr. CRERAR: You do not?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It is not my concern.

Mr. CRERAR: But I think members of this house should have some sense of responsibility for statements they make.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am not speaking for political advertising. I am not seeking to advertise.

Mr. CRERAR: When my hon. friend makes an allegation of that kind, I really—because, quite frankly, I like him, and I do not think for a moment that he was serious in the statements he made—must conclude that it is unfortunate that such statements are made.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Well, the hon. member for Davenport almost said the same thing as I did—and he was there.

Mr. CRERAR: Another reason given us is that sand was thrown in some of the bearings of the machinery. He said that there was sabotage. Well, that is quite true; someone did put sand in the oil,—

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Mr. Fallow has not been altogether wrong, then, has he?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): At least ninety per cent.

Mr. CRERAR: Would the hon. member for Bow River please let me finish?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am sorry.

Mr. CRERAR: It is true that some sand was thrown into some of the bearings of the machinery. That was reported to the police, and so far they have not been able to find the individual who carried on the sabotage. But my hon. friend gives this as an additional reason why a royal commission should be appointed.

Is my hon. friend serious in that? Does he think, because someone, in a moment of pique, or perhaps to damage the war effort, or for any other reason should, surreptitiously, throw sand in the bearings of the machinery, we must open a royal commission to investigate the government's responsibility? For a good