

Supply—External Affairs

he had been appointed by order in council. At that time there were 14 ministers in the house.

Mr. Byrne: What about P.F.A.A.?

Mr. Smallwood: There we have that great mind from Kootenay East again, that great voice of the mountains. If I could only buy that man for what he is worth and sell him for what he thinks he is worth I would quit politics tomorrow.

An hon. Member: For what he thinks he is worth.

Mr. Smallwood: Thinks he is worth, yes. When I was interrupted I had been referring to whether there had been an order in council sending the hon. member for Red Deer to Africa.

An hon. Member: Did you get your hay cheque?

Mr. Smallwood: You had better go up to mount Moses and make your speech, because you have never made any contribution in this house and I do not think you ever will. We realized there should have been an order in council. There were 14 ministers in the house at the time but none of them knew anything about the matter. I asked why the hon. member had been sent to Africa. I suggested that possibly it was a political plum for supporting the Liberal party and was assured it was not.

After half an hour of conference and discussion the minister finally admitted that they had sent him to Africa, but he was still vague about why they had sent him. Then he slept on the matter all night, came back next day and said that they had sent him to Africa to rescue some missionaries.

An hon. Member: A mercy flight.

Mr. Smallwood: It is a funny thing that they should hit upon this means of doing so. When I look across at the backbenches of the Liberal party I see some very intelligent men there—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Churchill: What is wrong with your eyesight?

Mr. Smallwood:—excluding the hon. member for Kootenay East. As I look up in the gallery I see some very intelligent men from the external affairs department sitting there. Why did the government have to dig down into the Social Credit party to find someone to send to Africa?

An hon. Member: A long way down.

[Mr. Smallwood.]

An hon. Member: The bottom of the barrel.

Mr. Smallwood: Here is an extract from the *Ottawa Citizen* of November 12 last in which the hon. member for Red Deer is quoted as follows:

I want to find out how Canada's aid program is being administered and find out what other schemes might be financed efficiently by my government.

I more or less expected that he might run as a Liberal in the next election but I did not know that he already had joined that party. They sent him to Africa, they tell us, to save these missionaries. Here is an article in the *Ottawa Citizen* of November 6 last:

The mother of a Saint John missionary said today she had misgivings about Social Credit leader Robert Thompson's efforts in Africa to gain the release of 26 Canadians held by Congolese rebels. Rev. and Mrs. David Grant left Saint John July 5 for their jungle mission post and are among about 800 hostages. Mrs. D. A. Grant said she is afraid diplomatic pressure by the Canadian government might antagonize the rebels and bring tragic consequences.

That is just about what has happened. The hon. member for Red Deer is in Halifax tonight and in a radio report he said he could not help these people, that he could not get within 30 miles of them. He was sent to Africa by the government. It is quite interesting when you look at what has happened. At first nobody in the government knew that the hon. member had been sent to Africa. It was a big surprise when I asked the question in the house. Fourteen ministers did not know and my dear friend, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, looked shocked and a little bewildered. This just happened overnight. So he rushed out and saw Mr. Spaak, the Belgian foreign minister. The minister had sent a Department of Transport plane to New York to bring Mr. Spaak to Ottawa. Then he said that Mr. Thompson was sent urgently to Africa to save some missionaries.

Time magazine has an article headed "The Junket that Wasn't," which reads:

It certainly looked like a junket. Thompson's travels, scheduled three months ago but postponed because there was no summer parliamentary recess, included no government assignments that career foreign service officers on the spot could not handle better: he planned to quiz African leaders on such questions as seating red China in the UN; he wanted to assess Canadian aid to African development programs. And so forth. His odyssey was so "important"—Martin to the contrary—that Thompson was not even briefed before departure by Ottawa's external aid office.

Mr. Rhéaume: They did not know why he was sent until next day.