

That man was not appointed, but another one was, who no one seems to have recommended at all. I just want to say a word about these confidential recommendations. We, as Mr. Boys brought out, came here to organize a non-partizan machine. Let me ask what would be personal in a letter going in, recommending one of these officials?

Hon. Mr. CANNON: Not only recommending, suppose somebody should write in and say, "Do not appoint so and so," and would give in that letter confidential information to the returning officer. I think it would be in the interest of all concerned that that letter should not be in.

Mr. HANSON: I would think it would be justification of the returning officer's action to produce it. It would be a good reason.

Mr. KELLNER: There are, unquestionably, a few instances that might arise, where in the case of a personal letter, it would be admissible to keep it off the file, but on the other hand, when anyone writes in and recommends an individual, because he belongs to a party, that is no reason why that letter should not go on the file.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: You are not dealing now with your own constituency.

Mr. KELLNER: No, I am dealing with Wetaskiwin.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: I understand Mr. Irvine is satisfied with the returning officer.

Mr. KELLNER: Perhaps he is. I am only pointing out that these appointments were made in a peculiar manner.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you think Mr. Irvine would be satisfied if the appointment was made in a peculiar way?

Mr. KELLNER: I am discussing the principle of these appointments—

The CHAIRMAN: You are protesting because the man who wrote and asked to be appointed, was not appointed.

Mr. KELLNER: You will not let me finish. There is another letter; it is from the Minister of the Interior, and reads as follows:

With reference to the question of appointing a returning officer for the constituency of Wetaskiwin, I may say that Mr. Edwin H. Jones, K.C., of Lacombe, Alberta, has been very strongly recommended. I feel certain that he will carry out this work in a satisfactory manner.

There is our list of recommendations, and his name is not mentioned. Instead of recommending them to the Chief Electoral Officer, they recommend them to the Minister, Mr. Stewart.

There is another letter in connection with that, that I was going to read. On that day that Mr. Stewart wrote this letter, or the following day, Mr. Castonguay writes back as follows:

HON. CHARLES STEWART,  
Minister of the Interior,  
Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR MR. STEWART,—I have your letter of the twenty-first, and note your remarks with regard to Mr. Edwin H. Jones, K.C., of Lacombe, Alberta.

Mr. Jones was appointed returning officer for the electoral district of Wetaskiwin on the 19th instant.

So you see, two days before Mr. Stewart wrote, he was appointed. Now, who recommended him, and why is the recommendation not here?

Hon. Mr. CANNON: You mean, the man was appointed before Mr. Stewart wrote his letter? So Mr. Castonguay could not be influenced by that.