

while I am discussing the other question. I refer him to pages 1879 and 1883 of Hansard of May 22 of this year.

Mr. MANION: I shall not have time to look it up because there is no staff on duty.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am giving my hon. friend more notice than he gave me, for I was absent the other day when he brought this matter up, the first day I have been absent this session.

Mr. MANION: Go ahead. I do not think anybody pays any attention to the hon. gentleman anyway.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We will see whether the minister pays any attention or not before I am through with him.

With respect to the Waterhen lake trouble, the Minister of Agriculture intimated in his speech that the former Minister of the Interior in the late government, the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) and myself, were responsible for the drainage of this lake. I was in hopes that the minister would have felt some contrition of conscience, some repentance with respect to that monstrous statement of his and would correct it, but he has not done so. Now that we are on the last day of the session—

Mr. SPEAKER: On what is the hon. gentleman basing his remarks? There is no motion before the house at the present time.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Was there not a motion to go into supply.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not heard it made.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I thought I saw you, Mr. Speaker, rising to leave the chair.

Mr. BENNETT: The clerk assistant called the order and I thought the motion had been made. However, to remove any doubt, I now move, Mr. Speaker, that you do now leave the chair for the purpose of enabling the house to resolve itself into committee of supply.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Is this the correct time now for me to speak, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am glad that my right hon. friend the Prime Minister is regarding the rules of the house. He was not so particular in connection with the recent suggestion of my right hon. leader.

The Minister of Agriculture in his speech in this house on May 7 spoke of all the weeds

around Regina, and blamed me for the weeds being there, although it is thirteen years since I ceased to be Minister of Agriculture in that province. Was I supposed to administer some sort of absent treatment to the weeds?

Mr. LAVERGNE: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman is alluding to a past debate and discussing a question that has been discussed in the house this session.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend should be satisfied with making interruptions when he is in the chair. I have the floor, and I am glad the deputy speaker is not in the chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: No member has the right to quote from the record of former debates of this session.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: All right, Mr. Speaker. I think I know it by heart anyway. The hon. Minister of Agriculture intimated distinctly on one or two occasions during that debate and at the conclusion of it—this is the first time, Mr. Speaker, that you have insisted upon that rule, but I am going to comply with it—that the former Minister of the Interior and myself were responsible for beginning the drainage of the Waterhen lake. I asked for a return with respect to the matter and under his own signature my hon. friend the minister intimated that the contract was let on October 20, 1920, fourteen months before either the former Minister of the Interior or myself came into this house. When the debate was on I drew attention to the fact that that drainage was started by the Conservatives. My hon. friend looked at his notes and said that it was done in 1921 and 1922. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Liberals were in power only for the three last days of December in 1921, and they would not be doing much drainage at that time of the year. The point I want to make is that the minister's statement was absolutely incorrect, as is proved by his own return, indicating that the contract was let on October 20, 1920. Anybody can figure out how many months there were between that date and the time we came into power. May I quote, at all, Mr. Speaker, from Hansard, with reference to the return brought down by the minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is against the rules to do so.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: May I quote from an order in council passed a good while ago, confirming and authorizing this work?