

Proposed Committee on Unemployment

The implication contained in these words is an implication that the prime minister of Canada and a close associate of his were deliberately affecting the Canadian stock market for the purpose of making money. There was the implication that he used his high office without reference to the agony which was being suffered by so many people in this country, and that he was making personal profits for his own advantage out of that agony and through the use of his high office in reference to it.

Mr. Pouliot: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I was not here, but a friend of mine told me the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) was making a great speech. I do not know to whom he is referring but he is looking at me with a great frown, and I wonder if he is addressing me through the Chair.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, I am sure, is well aware that I am referring to the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), whose words I quoted a few moments ago.

Mr. Pouliot: Well, now, sir, I rise on a question of privilege. I have known Mr. Bennett much better than his successor has ever known him and—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, on this occasion I must insist that the hon. member's remarks be directed to a question of privilege and not an interjection of something that is only interfering with what I am saying on this occasion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): I have risen to hear a question of privilege. Will the hon. member please state his question of privilege as briefly as possible so it may be dealt with.

Mr. Pouliot: I have two facts to put to you, sir. In the first place, when I said I had known Mr. Bennett better than the present leader of the Progressive Conservative party ever did—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Pouliot: Just a minute. Please sit down.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, on this occasion I must insist on the hon. member's remarks being—

Mr. Pouliot: But Mr. Speaker,—

Some hon. Members: Order.

An hon. Member: Sit down.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): I would like the house to assist the Chair in deciding whether a question of privilege has been raised. I have not yet been able to

[Mr. Drew.]

hear the hon. member complete his first sentence. I shall do my best within my limited powers to hold him to his question of privilege, but I would like him to be given the opportunity to state it.

Mr. Pouliot: Thank you, sir. You are acting in accordance with the finest British traditions which you and I know, and which are ignored by some people of great importance. Now, Mr. Speaker, history is the science of the past and in order to refer to some historical facts, one must necessarily turn back to the past.

Some hon. Members: Order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Order. I am sorry, but I am not of the opinion that a review of historical facts, or even the accuracy of arguments which may be advanced from either side of this house, constitute a question of privilege and I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to continue his remarks.

Mr. Pouliot: No, sir, excuse me. I rise on a question of privilege and I am explaining it to you. What I am referring to, sir,—

Some hon. Members: Order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): I have given the hon. member two opportunities to state his question of privilege.

Mr. Pouliot: I have not had a chance to say anything, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): In my opinion the hon. member's remarks do not refer to a question of privilege and I am asking the Leader of the Opposition to continue his remarks.

Mr. Pouliot: Well, it is most unfair.

Mr. Rowe: So were you.

Mr. Drew: I am unaware of any occasion when the hon. member for Temiscouata has made the allegations he made here yesterday while Mr. Bennett was in this house, and I am unable to find any occasion where he made the same allegations in regard to either of these two men whose names he mentioned in the speech from which I have quoted this afternoon.

Mr. Pouliot: I have said it in his lifetime here in this house.

Mr. Rowe: No, you did not. I have been here during that time and you never said it in your life. You were afraid.

Mr. Pouliot: You were never here.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Order.