

Interim Supply

institution. In accepting the title of this order is he entitled to be called Sir?

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairman, sir, I am sorry I cannot make any comment on that matter. I am not aware of the situation. It is rather interesting though, that the Order of the Phoenix which so many Canadians now hold, refers to some bird, or something, that arose from dead ashes. Now the hon. member talks about the Order of Saint Lazarus. He also arose from the dead. It looks like titles are arising in Canada again, but they are not British titles. They can be Belgian titles, Netherlands titles, Greek titles or Italian titles, but not British. I thank the hon. member for the contribution he has made to my argument, but regret I cannot give any information on the question he raised.

Mr. Knowles: While the hon. member is having his question period may I ask him one too?

Mr. Cowan: Certainly.

Mr. Knowles: I notice that the hon. member has referred a number of times to Lord Thomson's having been created a lord by the Queen of Canada. Would it not be more appropriate in this connection to refer to this action as having been effected by the Queen of the United Kingdom? Granted, it is the same person—the Queen of the United Kingdom and the Queen of Canada—but is it not incorrect to suggest that the Queen of Canada has appointed someone to the House of Lords of the United Kingdom?

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank the hon. member for his comments on that score. I am very happy he made this distinction between the Queen of the United Kingdom and the Queen of Canada. I know that that distinction exists although the person is one, and we can use it as a precedent when we are told in the future that we cannot criticize Mr. Justice Spence because he is a judge of the Supreme Court, when all we want to do is criticize him as a commissioner. I am glad to note that the Queen is two or three persons in one body and that we can make comments on her activities in one particular field.

Quite clearly Roy Thomson was created Lord Thomson of Fleet by the Queen of the United Kingdom and the Colonies, but the point I want to raise is that Lord Thomson is a celebrated Canadian. I do not know any more hardworking individual than Lord Thomson. He has been a credit to himself, he

[Mr. Herridge.]

has been a credit to his family, and he has been a credit to the city of Toronto where he was born. He is the publisher of a large number of Canadian daily and weekly newspapers, and is the owner of radio and television stations in Canada, and of many other businesses.

Why should Canada deprive him of his Canadian citizenship? It will be said that it was done voluntarily, that he himself became a citizen of the United Kingdom. He did become a citizen of the United Kingdom, but he did not lose his status as a British subject, because all Canadians are British subjects.

It seems rather odd that Lord Thomson should have to give up his Canadian citizenship, after being a native born Canadian, in order to accept a title from the Queen, and it is even more odd when you realize that by returning to Canada, residing here for 12 months and filing a declaration that he will make his permanent domicile in Canada thereafter, he can regain his Canadian citizenship.

I have here application forms for Canadian citizenship that I have received from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. I have the form that Mr. Thomson filled out to become a citizen of the United Kingdom, and nowhere does it denounce Canada on any point or in any particular.

• (12:50 p.m.)

He is a loyal British subject; he is a loyal native born Canadian. Lord Beaverbrook dead was considered a Canadian: Lord Thomson alive is a blighter. In the case of Lord Beaverbrook, I must point out that he carried a permanent Canadian passport and never gave up his Canadian citizenship. The only reason Lord Thomson had to give it up was because in the 1940's the Canadian government brought in the Canadian Citizenship Act. Under this act, Lord Thomson could not accept the title without losing his citizenship. Lord Beaverbrook had been created a lord long before this act was brought in. I should like to thank Hon. Jean Marchand for clarifying the situation, by pointing out that the premier of Quebec is not a Greek, and by pointing out that my friend can accept a title from a foreign country without jeopardizing his citizenship, or can accept a decoration from another country. It is nice to have this situation finally clarified. But why not let the wheel go full cycle and make it possible for Canadians to accept honours from the Queen, since Canadians now can accept honours from the King of Greece, the Republic of Italy, the