

Motion for Papers

other side of the house, I was not foolish enough to think there would not be anything said about it today. Of course, that will get a lot of publicity, but I hope the publicity it does get will indicate that institutions that some people think were breaking the law are not breaking it.

Mr. Drew: There is one point in Your Honour's remarks which I think I should refer to before we leave this matter, because it constitutes a record which will be referred to later on. Your Honour spoke about the fact that I had made some reference to a case in which Right Hon. Mackenzie King had put on the record a statement that has generally been accepted as a statement of the relationship of *Hansard* to the Speaker and to the house. Your Honour then went on to refer to the specific words that were used, which were expunged.

I would point out that my reference to that had not to do with the content of the statement which was expunged. It was to emphasize the fact that *Hansard* is under the authority of the house. That was the point that Mr. King was making, and that is the point I sought to make by quoting that reference today. In that regard, I simply do make this further observation so that the record will be complete.

Mr. Speaker: Well, no one objects to the theory that *Hansard* is subject to the authority of the house and that the Speaker is subject to the authority of the house. But that being so, I submit that there are two types of expurgations or erasures which may take place in *Hansard*. There is the one which forms part of what is called editing, which is very narrow, very limited. And I say that in the work the editor does as an editor he may seek the advice of the Clerk or of the Speaker. There is also a ruling which may be made by the Speaker when an unparliamentary expression is used. The Speaker may either ask that it be withdrawn, or he may ask that it be expunged from the record.

I agree with Mr. Speaker Black that when an unparliamentary expression is used in debate I should not order that it be erased from *Hansard* unless it is done on the floor of the house, unless I make my ruling right here. In that I fully agree with Mr. Speaker Black, and that is quite in line with what the Leader of the Opposition has said. But the Leader of the Opposition contended that the ruling of Mr. Speaker Black extended to the relationship between the editor and the Speaker with regard to the editing of *Hansard*, which is a different proposition altogether.

As I say, that editing is supposed to be within very narrow limits, and the narrower it will be the better.

Mr. Drew: I do not want the record in this case to be in any way unclear to those who read it afterwards. This was not a case of editing; this was a case of expunging, and that is exactly the point I was making. I want to make it quite clear that my remarks were all directed to the fact that the minister was personally responsible, and he has apologized for what he has done. I think at this stage, therefore, hon. members quite agree that much of the discussion this afternoon could have been shortened if that had taken place earlier.

Mr. Speaker: May I say a word? I will follow the advice of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell), and of the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Hansell) and I will not submit a question to the house with respect to the action taken, but will understand from the debate that it is the wish of the house that greater care be taken in future in the editing of our debates.

MOTION FOR PAPERS**GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE ON LOANS TO FARMERS***Motion No. 26—Mr. Fulton:*

For a copy of the letter or letters sent to chartered banks of Canada by the Minister of Finance in November, 1955, as to the basis upon which they might commence making loans to farmers on the security of their grain, such loans to be guaranteed by the government.

He said: I believe that in response to a request made by one of the other hon. members on Friday the Minister of Finance has agreed to table the letter. If that has been done, it would seem to make my motion unnecessary. If the minister will tell me whether it has been tabled, I would ask that this be withdrawn.

Mr. Harris: I tabled the letters, Mr. Speaker, but on rereading them I find that I omitted to attach to them the forms which had been sent with the letters. With the consent of the house I will table these forms later today.

Mr. Fulton: May I ask that this motion be withdrawn?

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the motion be withdrawn?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Withdrawn.