

*Supply—Justice*

for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Mr. Wilson, is very much in error when he claims in his letter to Mr. Freeman that they adhere to a list provided by the Department of Justice. The minister even seems to indicate here and there throughout his argument that all he did was to telephone the Minister of Public Works once in a while, more or less indicating that occasionally a new barrister ought to be added to the list; that it was a matter of an afternoon conversation or a telephone call. I hope the minister is able to clear up this matter of exactly how this list is compiled and when it was last compiled.

There are indications from the corporation and from the minister's department, at least from the correspondence with the minister's department, that a new list was prepared when the minister took office. If such a new list was prepared, the expectation of the hon. member for Assiniboia should certainly have been dealt with, and we should not be faced with the answer that no list does, in fact, exist. The hon. member for Assiniboia asked for all letters, lists or other memoranda, dating back to January 1, 1956.

I should like to clear up another point. Mr. Freeman is not asking for the right to do legal work for the government of Canada or any of its crown corporations.

**Mr. Fulton:** He certainly is; he is demanding the right.

**Mr. Regier:** Mr. Freeman is in the same position as other attorneys in equal circumstances, he is asking for the right to be placed on the list of those eligible to do work for the government of Canada. This is an altogether different thing from demanding the right to do any work. Even though you may be on the list, your turn may never come as the minister well knows, and as I am sure is already indicated in the correspondence.

There was one further insinuation by the minister, not only in this committee but also in some of the correspondence, and that concerned a conflict of interest. Does the minister mean that none of the attorneys who are on the eligible list now never had a nodding acquaintance with anyone who has ever used the services of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation? If that is so, his imagination must be rather vivid indeed. Mr. Freeman uses the case in point to back up his argument and to indicate to the minister that he knows something about the housing field and therefore is capable of dealing with matters of this kind at any time. Does Mr. Freeman really complain that he is unable to serve two masters at the same time? Like

all lawyers, even he would know he could not be serving two masters at the same time.

**Mr. Smith (Lincoln):** Mr. Chairman, may I call it six o'clock?

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, I want to deal this evening with a case which was brought to my attention some months ago over which I spent a lot of time. I have listened to the representations not only of the person who considers himself the victim but a number of other quite responsible citizens from Montreal. I have promised these people to bring this matter to the attention of the minister in the committee on the first item of the minister's estimates.

I might say that in dealing with this question I have done a bit of reading, but one must realize that when an ordinary layman gets into the field of law he finds himself tangled up very easily. However, I make these representations tonight on the basis of our own law, the royal proclamation of October 7, 1763, the Quebec Act, the Constitutional Act, the Union Act and the British North America Act, and more particularly upon the recent expressions of concern with respect to the rights of the individual which have been exhibited in the parliament of Great Britain.

It is very pleasing to note that in the parliament of Great Britain, where they are concerned with serious international and national questions, they do find time to deal with the grievance of the humble subject. In that connection, Mr. Chairman, I was so interested in this case that I want to place on record an extract from *Newsweek* of March 2, 1959, which is as follows:

*The Lad in the Gallery*

The House of Commons was hushed. In the distinguished strangers gallery, the 16-year old grocer's boy from the Scottish highlands sat tensely between his parents—sandy hair slicked back, elbows on knees, eyes wide. Below him on the floor, Britain's Prime Minister Harold Macmillan had risen from the front bench to his feet. "I will make a statement about John Waters."

For the watching boy, whose name had thus become the official business of parliament, it was a long-awaited moment. For the assembled M.P.'s and the public in many countries, it signified parliamentary democracy in its most majestic role—as guardian of the rights of the individual citizen.

John Waters' plea for justice went back fourteen months, to the night he was found bleeding and bruised in an alley near his home in the little northern Scottish town of Thurso. The boy claimed he had been beaten up by two local constables, after giving them "a bit of lip". His parents had