

Supply—Defence Production

minister advise the number of common shares held by the estate of Sir James Dunn in Algoma Steel? Those are simple questions, and they would go a long way toward clarifying the atmosphere.

Certainly it is passing strange that the opinion of counsel should have been secured by the minister if in the innermost recesses of his mind he had not entertained considerable doubt concerning the propriety of accepting a position with an estate the major assets of which are in a company which, directly or indirectly, has contracts with the Department of Defence Production. In addition to that the estate has an interest in keeping to a minimum the amount of taxation which will be levied against the estate, and it is the responsibility of the executors to preserve that interest.

No doubt there is an explanation, though it has not been forthcoming, of why it should have been necessary to place the minister in an invidious position, one that is difficult to justify; for if we are to maintain our parliamentary position one of the major means of achieving that end is that in our business and personal relationships we must abdicate many of those things which would bring us monetary returns. We must give them up as part of the ransom we pay for the opportunity of public service.

When I hear men in the public service being criticized I always think back to one principle, and it is this. How many men in the House of Commons who are making their contributions would, outside of the house, make much greater returns were it not for the fact that in their hearts and souls they have a desire for public service, to enter public life. All of us must resign ourselves to having less of the material benefits of life. All of us have to make that sacrifice, and because we do that an unwritten law exists which has for its authority generations of parliamentary government. That unwritten law is that not only must we be actually above suspicion in any way but our actions must have that appearance as well.

I believe the answers to the two questions I have asked will go a long way toward clarifying the situation, for until replies to these two simple questions are given all we do is meet a declaration of principle, whether answered by the parliamentary assistant or the minister, by the simple statement that there is no clash of interest. I suggest that the minister place before parliament the opinion he received. He is using the opinion as the explanation of his conduct. Let us see the opinion and the basis upon which it was given.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Chairman, earlier in the afternoon I had occasion to ask the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Defence Production what the minister's attitude might be toward his ministerial responsibility in connection with the problem we are now discussing. I received a rather unsatisfactory answer from the parliamentary assistant and no answer from the minister. I assume the parliamentary assistant has been carrying the ball for the minister in this respect.

I thought it would be interesting to check very quickly into some of the expenditures shown in the public accounts for last year that might be involved in this connection. Unfortunately I was handicapped by not having a list of the companies over which the minister will have some control in his capacity as executor of this estate. As a very minor example, and to show how far down the line this sort of thing can go, I would point out that last year the Department of National Defence, for which the Department of Defence Production procures supplies, equipment and services, is charged with over \$100,000 for payments to Canada Steamship Lines Limited. Canada Steamship Lines Limited is one of the major holdings in the Dunn estate—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):—through an intercorporate structure.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): I see that the minister shakes his head. Would he like to deny that the Dunn estate and Sir James Dunn had any connection with Canada Steamship Lines Limited?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Indirectly the Dunn estate may have an interest but the shares in question are owned by Algoma Steel Corporation.

Mr. Fulton: Exactly.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): There we are again. The minister shakes his head and then says that indirectly Canada Steamship Lines Limited is controlled by the Dunn estate. That is the type of thing which makes it so difficult to follow these matters through. We receive one answer in one breath and a completely contradictory answer in the next breath. We have established, however, by the minister's own words just now, the fact that this estate of which he is an executor has a very substantial interest in Canada Steamship Lines Limited. We have established from the accounts of the government for the year ending