

of our customs authorities. Political influence does not of necessity come into it and it can be kept out. But the complaint, I take it, that you make is that here are a group of men engaged in a private business and at the same time they are carrying on the banking business for the nation and others?

The WITNESS: Yes.

Mr. McGEER: Do you disagree with that proposition?

The WITNESS: Yes.

Mr. KINLEY: You are making the whole thesis.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Breithaupt, would you proceed?

Mr. BREITHAAPT: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether I shall conduct a cross-examination of the witness, but I think there are certain things in the record that should be kept straight. Yesterday the question was asked by Mr. Noseworthy of Mr. Bickerton what his association thought of the general principle of interlocking directorates. That was quite a normal question. In reply to that question Mr. Bickerton, apparently not very anxious to reply but groping around, discovered someone out in the west that he really did not know but whom he had heard of. I can understand that he wished to answer the question. Now, I should like to ask Mr. Bickerton if he knows Mr. Dobbie, President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce?

The WITNESS: No, I do not know him. As I mentioned yesterday all I know is that the invitations went out and they had all of those different positions on the invitation; that is all.

Mr. BREITHAAPT: Did you have any objection to a man going out there who was prominent in different lines of endeavour and who would know, perhaps, what he was talking about?

The WITNESS: No, I merely said—I think it was at the time Mr. Noseworthy mentioned it—Mr. Noseworthy mentioned a number of figures—I do not know whether the figures were correct or not, but I accepted them as correct as he quoted them; I said I knew of one case of one man. I do not know whether that is a healthy thing or not.

Mr. BREITHAAPT: In other words, you just took a name that came to your mind, and I imagine you were sincere in your remarks; but, Mr. Chairman, I believe that that is not a fair way of handling the work of this committee. I do not think personal remarks should be made.

While we are on the subject I should like to advise the committee that I have taken the trouble to look up Mr. Dobbie's record. I understand that he has been chairman of all the victory loans in South Waterloo ever since the start of this war. In the last war, and ever since, he has been chairman of the Galt Red Cross committee, and has done a splendid job with that organization. Incidentally, all of the victory loans there have gone over the top. Mr. Dobbie is a very public spirited citizen. During the time of the depression, concerning which we have heard a great deal in the banking committee, Mr. Dobbie headed a committee which is known as the Community Relief Committee in the city of Galt, and the work which he and his committee did was such an outstanding success that the citizens looked after those unfortunates who were on relief, and, at the same time they did not become a burden to the taxpayers. That is an outstanding record in Canada. At the present time Mr. Dobbie is giving freely of his time to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which is an organization doing splendid work throughout Canada. It represents no particular interest, but is a cross-section of business men, merchants, farmers and citizens of Canada generally who are interested in the welfare of this country. I take it that Mr. Bickerton himself is very proud of the Regina Industries Limited, and I think rightly so. Yesterday