

in this house at present would not be sitting in the house but would be absent, as the right hon. leader of the opposition is at the moment. That is a marked and unpleasant suggestion directed to certain hon. members.

An hon. MEMBER: Face the music.

Mr. WALSH: Face the music nothing; I do not think that is a fair and reasonable statement, and I think it is the duty of any hon. gentleman to withdraw a remark which casts a reflection upon any other hon. member. I ask my hon. friend from Halifax, as an hon. member who is held in general esteem, to withdraw the statement, or at least to make it plain that he is not casting any reflection upon any other hon. member.

Mr. FINN: I desire to say to my hon. friend that my statement stands, unless I am ordered by the chairman to withdraw it. I said nothing in reference to any hon. gentleman opposite, except that if I should make some statements perhaps some other hon. gentlemen would not be here in the house, not because they were directly interested but because my remarks would not be euphonious to their ears.

Mr. WALSH: Then is the ruling that the statements are in order, Mr. Chairman?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: I am sure, Mr. Chairman, you will rule that the hon. gentleman should not make any insinuations against any hon. member. I think that is all you need to do.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Johnston, Lake Centre): My position with regard to what the hon. gentleman said would be that he has not named any hon. member.

Mr. STEWART: Yes, he said, "like the right hon. leader of the opposition."

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Johnston, Lake Centre): The hon. gentleman did not charge the right hon. leader of the opposition with any wrongdoing, nor has he charged any individual member of this house with any wrongdoing.

Mr. STEWART: I do not think you caught the remarks of the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Johnston, Lake Centre): I think I did, and my ruling would be that anything the hon. gentleman has said so far is in order.

Mr. CAHAN: I should like to make it clear on Hansard that the right hon. leader

of the opposition is engaged this afternoon, performing his proper duties, in attending a meeting of a committee of this house, which necessitates his temporary absence from this chamber. That is the only reason why he is absent.

Mr. MacINNIS: I should like to say a few words in connection with this section, in support of the position taken by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George and those sitting around him. I may say that I am in agreement with the government in bringing down this legislation, because I believe it is an attempt to overcome some of the evils that the minister put on record in moving the second reading of the bill. If any further argument were needed to support what the minister said at that time I think it was furnished by my right hon. friend who has just taken his seat.

Mr. FINN: Not right honourable, just honourable.

Mr. MacINNIS: Not yet but at some other time, I hope. I suppose in expressing my approval of the bill I shall find myself in that category suggested by the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard, who said in Vancouver recently that hon. members who supported this bill must have something wrong with their heads. However I do not mind that, since I imagine I shall be in fairly good company. I believe the minister is falling short of what he intended to do if he leaves this section as it now stands. In support of his position he points out that the board will make these appointments, but I should like to suggest that if another government comes into power the term of office of this board will be terminated, and then we shall see exactly what my hon. friend from Halifax says happened in 1930. Therefore we are not going to get over the evils by merely appointing a board. I have before me to-day's Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day and I wish to draw to the attention of the committee two questions which appear thereon. Question No. 3 asks:

1. How many persons have been dismissed from the staff of the Vancouver harbour commission since October 23, 1935?

2. How many of those dismissed during this period were ex-service men?

3. How many persons have been appointed to the staff of the Vancouver harbour commission since October 23, 1935?

4. How many of those appointed during this period were ex-service men?

Question No. 5, which I suppose was put on the order paper to meet the reply to question No. 3, asks for the number of persons