

house—from the remarks made in this chamber last Thursday night during what is known as the late show by the hon. member for Kootenay East.

There were only seven members of parliament in the house at the time, one of whom was in the Chair. In discussing this Truscott case the hon. member for Kootenay East went so far as to say this about the conduct of the case:

I ask hon. members is this not a grotesque display of our much vaunted British justice? Even if the child were guilty as charged, and I have very serious doubts that he is... There are many serious minded persons... who share my view. Among them is Hon. George Wardrop... he expressed grave doubts of Steven Truscott's guilt... the cards were stacked against this boy... The defence evidence was glossed over in the charge to the jury by the trial judge.

Defence evidence which would have proven conclusively that Steven had left the little girl far from the scene of the murder, and a perfect alibi, was disallowed. Mr. Speaker, I personally am so convinced of this boy's innocence that I am prepared, if necessary, to stake my seat in the House of Commons—

Brave words.

The hon. member had been listening to a previous discussion here:

—on the outcome of an inquiry, or a royal commission, that would examine all the circumstances of the conduct of all the persons involved—including the roles of the judge, the prosecutor, the police officers, the three Crown doctors, and all other persons who took part in the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, this case was tried before Mr. Justice R. I. Ferguson, a member of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Ontario. The conviction was appealed and the appeal was heard by five members of the Supreme Court of Ontario—Hon. Dana Porter, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal; Hon. Mr. Justice Gibson, Hon. Mr. Justice Schroeder, Hon. Mr. Justice Lebel and Hon. Mr. Justice Morden, now deceased.

I wish to dissociate myself publicly from such remarks against the judiciary and, if I may be allowed to do so, I wish to compliment Your Honour on your ruling on Friday afternoon.

**Mr. Byrne:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I can understand the desire of the hon. member for Kootenay East to reply to the comment made by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat. But before he can do so, a ruling has to be made by the Chair on the question of privilege. As hon. members know, the Chair has to decide whether there is a prima facie

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### Bank Act

case of privilege. I rule there is no prima facie case of privilege and therefore there can be no further discussion of the matter.

**Mr. Byrne:** On a point of order, the hon. member has raised a question of privilege which he says affects all members of the house. Then he read the statement which I made. I said I was prepared to stake my seat on the outcome of an inquiry. If the hon. member wishes to lay a charge against me, let him do the same.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Starr:** The usual Liberal defence.

### AIR TRANSPORT

#### REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister? In view of the announced intention of the Canadian Pacific to discontinue a few more of its railway passenger runs, will the government make a statement to the house at an early date as to its intentions regarding further air routes that are being competed for in this country?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** This is a matter which we are considering, and if a statement can be made we shall be glad to make one.

### BANK ACT AND QUEBEC SAVINGS BANKS ACT

#### EXTENSION OF CHARTERS TO DECEMBER 1, 1966

The house resumed from Thursday, March 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp for the second reading of Bill No. C-3, to amend the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

**Mr. Lambert:** Has the Minister of Finance finished?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Before the hon. member for Edmonton West begins perhaps we might wait a few moments for order to be restored. Order. We are trying to restore order in the chamber so that the hon. member can make his speech.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Just before you called for order, Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister whether he had finished his remarks. I had forgotten that somewhat