

Q. Will you tell the Committee, if you can, from memory, just briefly what the case was?—A. I think it was a case of smuggling of dresses.

The CHAIRMAN: It might be better if the record was before the Committee.

Mr. GEOFFRION, K.C.: Suppose he makes a mistake?

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I am not afraid of him making a mistake.

Mr. GEOFFRION, K.C.: May I point out, Mr. Stevens—

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I am not going into that in detail.

The CHAIRMAN: Sometimes the general appearance of everything is worse than in detail, because the detail corrects the general impression.

WITNESS: I might point out that in dealing with these records of cases, sometimes there will be a report on the case that it would be very unjust to make public in any way, where names might be mentioned, and an officer or a constable, or a non-commissioned officer in Montreal, Quebec, or anywhere who is working on the case hears rumours; he gets suspicious; he reports these things to me, because he knows that it is in a confidential way. If that were made public it would be destructive to police methods afterwards.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. I am not asking for anything like that. This was a case of a seizure made by an officer, whom you say was a reputable officer?—A. Yes.

Q. That case was not proceeded with?

Mr. GEOFFRION, K.C.: What I am suggesting is that we better go on with that when the record is here. A question may be put and we may control them as they go on.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. I just want to put one thing on the record, which I will come to in the next question. The case was not proceeded with, is that right?—A. No. We had nothing to do with it after a certain point.

Q. The case was not proceeded with?—A. No.

Q. Have you forgotten?—A. No. The case was settled in some way or another, but we had nothing to do with it.

Q. It was dropped as far as you were concerned?—A. It was dropped.

Q. Under whose orders?—A. I would not say from memory. It is some time ago.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to point out that this evidence is not fair and should not go further before the records are filed and the proceedings are before the Committee.

Mr. GEOFFRION, K.C.: There is no objection to the question being put when the record is available, as if the witness makes a mistake we can correct him immediately; otherwise we cannot correct it for days afterwards.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. I want an answer to this question. Under whose instructions was the case dropped?

Mr. GEOFFRION, K.C.: I object to that.

The CHAIRMAN: Objection maintained.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Would you please produce that file, before this Committee, including instructions given to drop that particular case?

The CHAIRMAN: The whole record.