

*Interim Supply*

At page 96 of the same *Parliamentary Guide*, if I am allowed to refer to a member of the other place, we have a reference to Hon. Leon Mercier Gouin:

—son of the late Sir Lomer Gouin . . . Quebec Prime Minister . . . Chev. de la Légion d'honneur (France).

At page 124 of the same *Parliamentary Guide* there is a reference to another member of the other place, Hon. Thomas Vien—

**Mr. Choquette:** A former member for Lotbinière.

**Mr. Cowan:**—who is described as:

Knight of the Legion of Hon. (France). Knight Commander of Royal Orders of: Phoenix (Greece)—

Notice that, of Greece, and also:

—Knight Commander of Royal Order of Orange Nassau (Netherlands); Leopold II (Belgium).

I am not decrying these men accepting these titles, but I would like to know why they are allowed to take titles from Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and now Italy, because it is apparent from the letter received from the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) that my Italian Canadian friend can accept the rank of Cavalier of the Order of Merit of Italy, but when the Queen of Canada wants to confer a title on a native born Canadian, not domiciled ordinarily in Canada, that a Canadian cannot get it on the recommendation of the Canadian government, and in order that the Queen may confer it upon him he has to apply for citizenship of the United Kingdom and become a citizen of the United Kingdom and the Colonies. In the case to which I make reference the Queen then confers on him the title of Lord Thomson of Fleet.

An interesting corollary to that is that Roy Thomson had three Canadian born children. We all regret the death of one of his two daughters last month, whose burial and funeral service took place in Toronto. His children are all native born Canadians and they have the right since their father is Lord Thomson, of using the title Honourable. We have Hon. Kenneth Thomson, his son, the president of a large Canadian corporation and director and officer of many other corporations controlled by Thomson money. We have the two daughters both given the courtesy title of Honourable, yet their father is not a Canadian citizen.

The interesting thing about Lord Thomson of Fleet is that if he comes back to Canada and stays here for one year he can vote in

our federal elections. He can vote to elect a federal member of parliament, and in that way help to elect the Prime Minister of Canada; but he is not a Canadian citizen. He will only be a British subject one year resident in Canada. But after he has been in Canada for one year and is willing to swear that he is going to make his permanent domicile in Canada, he can apply for Canadian citizenship under the Canadian Citizenship Act.

The thing gets more and more ridiculous if you consider that a native born Canadian is not allowed to accept a title from the Queen of Canada as a Canadian citizen, but other Canadians, native born, as in the case of Jean Lesage—

**Mr. Barnett:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Cowan:** Certainly.

**Mr. Barnett:** I just wonder if the hon. member consulted the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) on these interesting questions that he has raised?

**Mr. Cowan:** I have correspondence here from so many departments of the cabinet that it would take half an hour to read. I do not think there is any agency of the government that I have not consulted in the past 12 months while I have been digging up facts and figures on this matter. I have envelopes here from the Department of the Secretary of State, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Department of External Affairs. I think I have correspondence from every department of the government that might be connected with the matter. I received nothing but the utmost co-operation from all of the civil service staff in my researches on this matter, and I can assure you of that, sir.

**Mr. Herridge:** Would the hon. member permit another question?

**Mr. Cowan:** Certainly.

**Mr. Herridge:** The hon. member is giving us a most philosophical address with respect to titles and we are all expecting the Secretary of State to reply. But I have recently been informed, in fact recently I have seen the picture showing where our Speaker has been created a Knight of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in Canada, and I understand this is conferred by letters patent of a Canadian