

Several Hon. MEMBERS: Question.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask Mr. Coldwell if he objects to answering the question.

Mr. SPENCE: There is a motion before the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. I will ask Mr. Coldwell if he objects to answering this question. If not, there is no necessity for a ruling.

The WITNESS: The only objection I have to answering that question is this, that Mr. Forke now states that he was giving me current gossip and suspicions.

Mr. CAHAN: That is no defence—what he subsequently said. You are bound to answer the question. This Committee has expressed its will through the Chairman that you answer it.

The WITNESS: If I understand that the Committee requires me to answer that question, I will answer it.

Mr. BROWN: It seems to me there is a little confusion in Mr. Cahan's position. Are we to decide whether we shall accord this witness privilege, or are we to decide whether this particular question shall be answered?

The CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled that the Committee cannot extend a privilege, that already exists by rule.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Cahan's motion is that this particular question be answered?

Mr. CAHAN: That is all.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: And the Chairman has ruled that he answer it.

The CHAIRMAN: My ruling is that the question is a proper one and should be answered. Is it the wish of the Committee to appeal from that ruling?

The WITNESS: I will answer the question. The name mentioned to me was that of Mr. McMurray of Winnipeg.

*By Mr. Glen:*

Q. Was he a member of Parliament at the time this conversation took place?—A. I said that prior to Mr. Forke's ministry—

Q. What was the date of that meeting?—A. March 1927.

Q. Mr. McMurray was not a member of Parliament then?—A. Not at that time, but I said prior to that time. Now, in further reference to that statement: I also notice that Mr. Forke last week stated—

Mr. CAHAN: Please give your own evidence.

The WITNESS: May I just say this?

Mr. CAHAN: You are not giving your evidence with regard to any statements made by Mr. Forke last week; you are giving your evidence of statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Forke to you. Please confine your evidence to that.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: A statement made by you at Regina.

The WITNESS: I will try to do that, sir. As soon as the press report appeared—or at least within two days, I had to go away on a law case in connection with a teacher's matter. When I returned home I wrote to Mr. Forke—

*By Mr. Cahan:*

Q. Was that after this publication in the paper?—A. Yes.

Q. We are asking you to give evidence, and you began to give evidence, with regard to your conversation with Mr. Forke, as a basis for your statement. We are not asking you to deal with subsequent correspondence with Mr. Forke. That may become relevant later on, but now tell us the whole subject of your

[Mr. M. J. Coldwell.]