

Interim Supply

I have been in opposition to the Minister of Trade and Commerce all down the line; I have fought him more than once. In the four years I have been here time after time he has been completely wrong in my opinion; he is a dictator and has no right in a democratic parliament, but at no time would I have said that he is dishonest. As I have said, I agree with the questions of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre; they were straight questions, but with respect to the charge that because a man happens to be named as an executor he would do what it has been inferred he has done, I say that is not the way in which in almost a quarter of a century of public life, I have played politics.

I say that this afternoon to me was one of the roughest days of my life in a democratic parliament because of the words of the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition and the words of the leader of the Social Credit group. Carefully as I listened, I could only come to one conclusion: That irrespective of what they have said before, and irrespective of the opinions of the people of Canada, they were trying to create the impression that perhaps our ambassador to Cairo was many years ago associated in some manner with a communist.

Now these are the last words I am going to say at this session—I will be back and I will say more at the next session. The member, I think for Peace River, talked about witch-hunting; now I am not going to do any witch-hunting but it is positively disgusting to listen to the sanctimonious hypocrisy of the kind of talk we have heard this afternoon from the leaders of the other two opposition parties creating at least the impression of a defence of what has taken place in the committee of investigation in the United States.

If association makes a man a communist, then I would like to ask the Socreds what they are going to do about a cabinet minister of British Columbia who 20 years ago was in association with an unemployment association on which communists were represented? Does that make him a communist? I would like to know what the Socreds are going to do about their nominee running in the federal election, who to my knowledge was working with me on other bodies on which the communists were also represented. Does it make the Socred minister in British Columbia a communist, because 24 years ago he worked with the unemployed and with the communists. Does any association with them in those days make him a communist? I say the answer is no.

I know both these Socreds. One is a cabinet minister and the other is a federal candidate in this coming election in the city of Vancouver. From what has been said,

through having associated with communists they must be communists. I say that they are not. We need to recognize that in the course of our lives all of us meet and work with a lot of organizations. The truth of a man's position is his party, his loyalty, his principles and his program, and I regret that this afternoon even the slightest question has been raised with regard to the associations years ago of a man who, I regret to say, is now dead. I regret that in any way at all there should have been character assassination by any member of the House of Commons or any party.

In conclusion, when we leave here today I hope and anticipate that in the next two months we will fight on program and on principle, and that is the meaning, to me, of democracy.

Mr. Macdonnell: I think I would be doing less than my duty if I did not protest very strongly against the words used by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat with regard to my colleague from York West.

The hon. member said that he thought the questions asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre were justified. My colleague also asked questions in a situation which was difficult and perplexing; I think it is difficult and perplexing to us all. The minister has answered those questions, but I submit there was nothing which could properly be called character assassination at all; it was a series of questions.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): What else was he trying to do?

Mr. Macdonnell: They were questions which the minister took and answered. That is my opinion, and I give it for what it is worth.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS**INTERIM SUPPLY**

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

Mr. Harris moved:

That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, the sum of \$1,714,109,433.08 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, as set forth in the resolution concurred in this day in the committee of supply.

Resolution reported and concurred in.