

Mr. HANSON: Or to yours.

Mr. KELLNER: Well, he never came to me for any, nor to any other man in Alberta, as far as I know; that is, to none of the farmers' representatives.

I might make a little further comment on that. Through Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where there are independent representatives in the House, he did consult the members, and I think in every case he did appoint the party recommended. In our province he kept away from us, refused Mr. Hunt's recommendations, and made recommendations, which, in my opinion at least, must have come from the records of the Liberal party. I am now going to deal with two or three of these specifically. In the constituency of Wetaskiwin Mr. Hunt recommended Robert W. Manley, John Crough, Esther Williams, and George W. Wells. Dr. Johnson was first appointed in that constituency, and I asked the Chief Electoral Officer about that appointment, because it was later changed. The name of the present one has escaped me for the moment. In Wetaskiwin, Jones has the appointment now. We had that up in the committee on a previous occasion, and I said I wished to ask the witness a question. "In the constituency of Wetaskiwin, my information is that Dr. Johnson was substituted for the previous returning officer." That is an error in the evidence, that is not what I said at all. What I said was that Mr. Jones was substituted for Dr. Johnson. But the point I wish to bring out is that I asked the witness why the change was made, and the witness said that the man died and that was the reason the change was made; that he died after the selection was made. That is incorrect, Mr. Chairman. At the time he made this statement I was quite satisfied it was wrong, and I anticipated writing a doctor to find out.

Mr. HANSON: Was the doctor supposed to be dead?

Mr. KELLNER: I have recollections of a bill that was introduced in the House, where the argument was advanced that sometimes a doctor issued a certificate covering people who were not dead, so I thought that I would avoid that difficulty and write the undertaker which I did. I have the letter, which tells me that Dr. Johnson died on the 9th of October. He was appointed on the 17th of January, and was, without doubt, dead for several months, and the grass, in all probability, was green on his grave the day he was appointed.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: Do you not think this is a dead issue, Mr. Kellner?

Mr. KELLNER: I bring it up for one reason, and it is this: I do not believe that Mr. Castonguay had any recommendation from any individual. What I think was done was this: they went to the books of the Liberal organization for appointments for returning officers, and they got them all over the province.

Mr. HANSON: It came from the Minister, as it did in New Brunswick.

Mr. KELLNER: I think that probably shows the basis from which the reports came. I think there is a letter covering it on that file.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: That would go to show that last year Mr. Castonguay was right. Mr. Castonguay did not want to assume responsibility for these appointments for that very reason.

Mr. HANSON: He did not have to accept.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: It was forced on him by legislation.

Mr. HANSON: He could refuse. He could always resign.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: Oh, well. He made those very representations to the committee, you will remember.

Mr. KELLNER: My criticism is he should have taken Mr. Hunt's recommendations.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: Why should Mr. Castonguay take Mr. Hunt's or any other officer's recommendations?