

Supply—Privy Council

An hon. Member: Or Prince George.

Mr. Green: Or Prince George. The Prime Minister's tour was in effect a political tour. He was quite right to take it; he was very wise to take it especially to British Columbia, where the fortunes of his party and of some other parties have not been so good in recent years.

Mr. Cruickshank: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Green: But I do suggest that by taking the clerk of the privy council along on these political tours the Prime Minister is helping to break down and injure the standing of that position, and I do not believe it should be done.

Mr. St. Laurent: I will not admit the hon. gentleman's strictures that the Prime Minister and the clerk of the privy council are breaking down the traditions of that office, and I will not admit that I was on a political tour last summer. It may be that wherever I go there is a political effect.

Mr. MacDougall: I feel rather strongly about this debate because of the attack that has been made with respect to the Prime Minister and Mr. Pickersgill. I happened to be one of the committee in Vancouver who were arranging and assisting in the arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit. I do not mind telling you that we were quite annoyed in Vancouver because the Prime Minister definitely refused to hold a political meeting in the city of Vancouver or its environs because he was out there as a guest of the law society of Canada.

Mr. Wylie: Oh, boloney.

Mr. MacDougall: We would have loved to have a political meeting when the Prime Minister was out there, but we felt as he felt; that as a guest of the law society of Canada he could not hold a political meeting, and no political meeting was held in the city of Vancouver or its environs during his stay. Certainly I take personal objection to any innuendo that may be cast with respect to that matter, because if any man was fair and square and aboveboard in keeping politics out of the Canadian Bar Association it was the Prime Minister of Canada and the leader of the Liberal party.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I imagine it is always difficult to be quite sure when a trip is partly political and partly otherwise; but I have risen to say that I welcome the assurance the Prime Minister has given, because I do agree with the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra that there was a good deal of misunderstanding with regard to what

took place last autumn. That is why I welcome the assurance which the Prime Minister has given.

Mr. Weir: Reference has been made to the Prime Minister's visit to my constituency of Portage-Neepawa. I do not mind saying in the House of Commons tonight that that was a political meeting in the sense that it was an address by the Prime Minister to the constituents of Portage-Neepawa. When I got word from my associates that the Prime Minister would be glad to grace us with his presence at that meeting I immediately turned the arrangements over to the young Liberal association in the city of Portage la Prairie. They arranged the meeting. We had a good meeting; the Prime Minister had an immense reception, but Jack Pickersgill was not there.

Mr. Fulton: May I ask the hon. member whether that was the meeting in which the Prime Minister said it was only imaginary that there was overtaxation in Canada today?

Mr. MacInnis: It is not my intention to carry this discussion to any length, but I do think that the discussion, and perhaps more than anything else the remarks made by the Prime Minister, indicates to everyone how careful the Prime Minister must be in matters of this kind. He said that it was not a political tour, but perhaps every tour he makes is political.

Mr. St. Laurent: Has political effect.

Mr. MacInnis: Has political effect. People take it that way. I am sure that when the Prime Minister—and I do not find any fault or make any criticism of this—goes on tour anywhere in Canada he cannot do it without those present feeling that he is there not only as the Prime Minister of Canada. Many would feel he was the Prime Minister of Canada, but others would feel he was not only the Prime Minister of Canada but the head of the Liberal party. These are the facts. Let me say again that these things fall off my back quite easily because I attach no great importance to them. Any time the Prime Minister comes to Vancouver, with or without Jack Pickersgill, I shall be glad to hear that he is there.

Mr. Rowe: I know the committee was very interested in listening to the Prime Minister's review of his splendid tour of western Canada. It is rather inspiring at this time to find that he is such a non-political Prime Minister when he travels from coast to coast, and only trusts that he may have a political effect.

I could not help thinking, when the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard was speaking,