

*Toronto Star*, as I recall it, that Major Herridge had been retained to attend at London with Premier Bennett and I had the impression that the argument took place on that trip.

Q. And you are aware, of course, that because the Prime Minister—as even a member of a department of the government—retains counsel and chooses as counsel one of his own political or personal friends that that does not mean that the member of the government or the Prime Minister does anything that he should not do. That is one of their privileges—to appoint their own friends in cases of that kind as counsel?—A. There is no impropriety in the matter. All I was charging was favoritism.

Q. There was no improper conduct on the part of the Prime Minister?—A. No improper conduct suggested by me.

Q. Now, then, in your statement you said that after you had found that you had been misinformed and that the statements made in your Hamilton and Lindsay speeches were not exactly according to the facts you took the first opportunity at Cobourg to correct that statement and to make an explanation, to make a retraction and an apology; is that correct?—A. I did. For I thought I owed it to the two prominent Canadian members of the bar.

Q. Did you make a retraction as far as everybody whom you mentioned was concerned?—A. As I said, those names had been drawn into the matter. I regretted that the matter had received the publicity that it had, because there was no foundation for it in what I said at Hamilton.

Q. May I go a little further. Are you satisfied in your own mind, first, that that was a retraction of the statements you made at both these previous meetings?—A. Well, in my twenty-five years of practice at law I have received less frank statements and accepted them in settlement.

Q. In view of what Mr. Bennett said yesterday, you can understand his position and the position of others who are interested in this matter, and in view of his statement are you willing to say here and now that although in your opinion your retraction at Cobourg was sufficient in your mind—are you willing to go as far as to say that you regret, in view of all the circumstances which have transpired since—that you regret that you ever made those statements at Hamilton and Lindsay?—A. I certainly regret the statements were made which formed the basis of this *Globe* report which was wrong, because it is not fair to Premier Bennett nor to Major Herridge that that innuendo should be attached, and I am as anxious as any member of the committee to correct that impression that has gone forward.

Q. And you are willing to express your regrets that you ever made those statements?—A. I have done that before and I do it now, because I feel it was a very serious thing—the way *The Globe* placed it before the public. I may add that another source of my information—I forgot to say—was *The Montreal Standard* and *The Toronto Saturday Night*. I see *The Toronto Saturday Night* reporter here, and I do not want to leave him out because he is one of my valuable sources of information.

By Mr. Bowman:

Q. Mr. Gordon, you are one of His Majesty's counsel learned in the law entitled to K.C. after your name?—A. Yes sir.

Q. And you say you have been practising for twenty-five years?—A. Twenty-five years past.

Q. And this article which appeared in *The Globe* under date of January 6th was specifically brought to your attention?—A. It was brought to my attention through reading *The Globe*.

Q. And the editorial which appeared in *The Globe* on January 8th under the heading "Mr. Gordon's Charge"; that was brought to your attention?—