

Further, he saw no reason why Mr. Finlayson should meddle in an affair that concerned the Attorney-General's Department only. Magistrate Gover seemed to have been willing to enter the arrangement with Mr. McCaughrin. In view of the good living concerned, Mr. Gover was ready to divert certain funds, and was "generous in the allotment."

Dr. McQuibban held that the last clause of the report, suggesting direct payments by the Government in cases of retiring allowances, meant that the committee really did not like the methods employed, and would prefer if such means were not used again. At any rate, he concluded, the investigation had not been without its advantages, as some good evolved from it.

Mr. McCrea's Interpretation.

Mr. McCrea said the case had grown out of The Globe's publication last December of the McCaughrin declaration. It had been calculated "as a great political bombshell that would do political damage to the Government of the day. Unfortunately for those who cast the bomb and who lit the fuse, it has turned out to be another of the great political duds of the Board of Strategy."

The Minister reviewed the early stages of the matter, and said Mr. Finlayson had sought to help Mr. McCaughrin out of "sympathy, and the goodness of his heart, which a member shows to a constituent who appeals for his aid."

Mr. Nixon broke in: "How many pensions do you think a man ought to have?"

Mr. McCrea replied that Mr. McCaughrin had been receiving small pensions for his service in the war and as a C.P.R. telegrapher, but had considered these insufficient to maintain him. The Minister then recited the precedents for the Government's action, including several under the Drury Government.

Reference to Solicitor.

Returning to the history of the case, Mr. McCrea said McCaughrin, after making the bargain with his successor, had "contacted with his sometime solicitor, Mr. Harvie, an outstanding Liberal." Mr. Harvie possibly was the first to suggest that this was a case of trafficking in office, had "put a flea in McCaughrin's ear." McCaughrin was made to "wonder if he had missed the boat." In his innocence, he thought that if he acted in concert with enemies of the Conservative Party, they might hurt that party. He was taken to the office of George McLean, once Liberal candidate for the riding. "There they mesmerized Daniel McCaughrin," said Mr. McCrea. "Word was sent to Harry Johnson, Organizer of the Liberal Party, and the declaration was sworn.

Ethics of Settlement.

"Was Harry Johnson thinking of the ethics or propriety of this settlement, or was he thinking how he could use Daniel McCaughrin and this declaration to injure the Conservative Party?" demanded Mr. McCrea.

Instead of coming to the Parliament Buildings about the matter, continued the Minister, they had gone to the office of The Globe, and there had seen Harry W. Anderson, Managing Editor, and had shown him the statutory declaration.

Whether or not it was qualms of conscience that affected him at this moment, McCaughrin then had thought he should go up to see the Attorney-General. But the ethics of the case, said Mr. McCrea, were not troubling him so much as whether he could get a better settlement. He had seen Deputy Attorney-General Bayly, and, when he couldn't impose his terms on Mr. Bayly, he had gone back to The Globe.

All for An Allowance.

Then, continued the Minister, it was decided to publish the so-called charge. "You are all familiar with these headlines in The Globe," said the Minister, flourishing the issue of the paper carrying the McCaughrin declaration. A "terrible crime" had been committed, the public mind had been "inflamed," the Government and two of its Ministers were accused of wrongdoing. "All," said the Minister, "because they had tried to find some allowance for Daniel McCaughrin."

Mr. McCrea said he could not understand now Mr. Nixon could repudiate principles which he himself had held while he was in office. When he submitted further precedents, Mr. Nixon remarked that in these there was no evidence of any such bargaining as had marked the present case.

"Not on the surface," replied the Minister, but he wondered how any agreement could be reached between two men without bargaining.

"Daniel McCaughrin's misfortune," said the Minister, "was that he listened to the words of politicians, using him as a tool to advance their own interests."

Mr. Nixon's Position.

Mr. Nixon, he said, was on the horns of a dilemma. He had said he was not against the evidence. At the committee hearings he had had every opportunity to call and examine witnesses, "but neither he nor the Liberal House Leader had called a witness nor asked a question. The evidence, he said, had been absolutely undisputed. Mr. Nixon, he

continued, had to register some objection, and he wished the committee report to pass no judgment "on the whole charge prepared by Harry Johnson in McLean's office. It is our job to tell the House that there was no bargaining, no trafficking in office.

"The one man I'm sorry for in this case is Dan McCaughrin. In committee he impressed me as a man who wanted to do what was right, and honestly thought he had great capacity for his job. But the evidence was too overwhelming in the local area that he was inefficient and should be retired."