

MARCH 1.

Power States Lampport Shifted Before Speech

Transfer of Flying Officer Allan A. Lampport, Liberal member for Toronto-St. David, from the Manning Depot here to the East Coast Command, was ordered twenty-four hours before he made Thursday's Legislature attack upon Henry Ford, Premier Hepburn was advised last night by Hon. C. G. Power, Minister of National Defense for Air.

"The orders for the transfer were issued twenty-four hours before the officer concerned had any knowledge of Flying Officer Lampport's speech in the Legislature yesterday." Mr. Power wired the Premier. "Consequently, there could not have been any connection between the speech and transfer."

The Air Minister claimed also that Flying Officer Lampport's transfer was decided some time ago, but was left in abeyance until he had further experience in Manning Depot work. The abrupt transfer order received by the flying officer within twenty-four hours of the time he charged the motor magnate with being a "blackhearted Quisling," was characterized by R.C.A.F. headquarters as "pure coincidence."

Flying Officer Lampport refused flatly to discuss the transfer or the suggestion that it had been made as a "disciplinary measure" for having made the charges. He admitted only that he had been transferred.

Premier Hepburn interviewed his member late yesterday. "As a member of the Government I got in contact with him and found that at 10:30 a.m. he was ordered out of No. 1 Air Training Command here without any reason being given. I asked him if he could attend Monday's sittings of the House when the transfer is scheduled for discussion. Ordinarily, it is my understanding, that a member of Parliament is permitted three or four days' leave in a case of this kind but Flying Officer Lampport was not given such privilege and must leave immediately."

The transfer and the question of whether or not the member had been disciplined because of his speech was aired shortly after the House convened when the Premier read a press report.

"I think it is time that this Legislature takes some definite action if this report is true," he said. "I hope it is not true but I am afraid it is."

"Apparently the member for St. David has been disciplined for commenting on Ford's speech which he made some time ago, and to which I also took exception." He added: "It only goes to prove that in this country, which is fighting for freedom it is not safe to utter honest words of opinion in this Legislature."

Hon. Leopold Macaulay acting Leader of the Opposition, said he believed it would be most regrettable if it is proven that the transfer was connected with Flying Officer Lampport's speech. He suggested that it be held over for week-end inquiry.

Investigation revealed last night that the officer on Thursday night was telephoned from Detroit. It is also stated that he could not be reached and that telephone operators reported "Mr. Ford's secretary from Detroit," was calling.



F.O. LAMPFORT.