

10. What did you do with the letter addressed to yourself?—I destroyed it—the letter addressed to myself.

11. Will you please read the first page of that [document produced and handed to witness]. That is what I call the covering letter?—As near as I can remember that was the letter sent to me.

12. Do you notice that was marked "Private and confidential"?—Yes.

13. If you receive a letter marked "Private and confidential," and are not prepared to treat it as private and confidential, do you not consider it to be your duty to send it back to the writer?—No.

14. Those are your ethics?—I do not say that.

15. You did not keep that letter, but destroyed it?—As far as I can recollect I destroyed it.

16. What did you do with the enclosure addressed to Mr. Carr?—I do not know that I am prepared to admit your right to ask me. I accepted it as an enclosure to the private and confidential letter.

*Mr. Skerrett:* Is it relative that we should ascertain the nature of the contents of the letter to Mr. Carr, seeing that it had been sent to thirty-nine members of the party, or how it came to Mr. McCallum's notice? I apprehend that all the facts are now available to allow of the Committee to come to a decision on the matter. We have the fact admitted that the letter was sent to thirty-nine members of the House.

17. *Mr. Sinclair.*] I submit that it might affect the quantum of punishment, and that I am entitled to rely on the *Hansard* report. Mr. McCallum is reported to have said, "I do not blame the members of this House, and I am not going to refer to any side of the House in this matter, because I have to admit at once that the gentleman who got this letter does not belong to the Opposition side of the House at all." Now, Mr. Veitch, did you not hand the enclosure to Mr. McCallum?—I think that is my business.

*Mr. Sinclair:* I must ask you to rule, Mr. Chairman.

18. *The Chairman.*] I think you ought to answer the question, Mr. Veitch?—Well, I did hand it to Mr. McCallum.

19. *Mr. Sinclair.*] Now I want the date?—I cannot give you the date. I considered the letter contained statements of a discreditable nature.

20. You got the letter some time in March?—I cannot remember the date.

21. You heard the speech of Mr. McCallum in the House in which he said he had received the letter the day before?—I think that was correct.

22. It was treated as a matter of urgency because he said he had not had the letter more than twenty-four hours?—I was present when the speech was delivered.

23. Did you not hear the Speaker rule that if Mr. McCallum brought the matter up before the House the moment he received the letter he was entitled to have it treated as a matter of urgency?—I cannot tell you the time, but it was one or two days previous to that.

24. As a matter of fact, was it not a week before?—I cannot say that it was. I do not remember the date exactly. I do not want to shuffle out of the matter at all, but you are trying to tie me down to details which it is impossible for me at this time to remember.

25. *Mr. Lee.*] Did you send the letter by post?—No; I delivered it to him personally—either up here or down below.

26. *Mr. Skerrett.*] I understand you regarded the letter as an attack upon a member of the House?—Yes, I did.

27. And you thought it proper that such an attack should be brought under the notice of the member concerned?—I thought it only fair that he should know what had been said of him.

28. Do you think a letter of this kind should be protected when circulated by a covering letter marked "Private and confidential"?—No. If I had thought that I should not have disclosed it to Mr. McCallum.

29. Will you look at page 2 of the letter—"You cannot expect and you do not expect them to tackle perjurers in high place and embark on a sea of crime for repression and punishment of perjury, as part and parcel of their day's work, for which they get the wages of a common labourer." Then look at paragraph 1 lower down: I ask you whether that letter did not contain gross charges against Mr. McCallum?—Surely.

30. Now, as to the time when you handed the letter to Mr. McCallum: Mr. McCallum said in the House that you handed it to him within twenty-four hours before his motion was treated as a breach of privilege. Are you prepared to say that is not correct?—I believe it is correct.

31. But you cannot speak with any positiveness on the point?—Perhaps if I went into the matter minutely I could say perhaps positively; but I cannot remember very well after the time that has elapsed.

32. You believe Mr. McCallum's statement to be correct?—I have no reason to believe it to be incorrect.

33. *Mr. Sinclair.*] Why did you keep this letter concealed among your papers from the end of March or the beginning of April, when you received it, until the 3rd July?—You say I kept it concealed among my papers. I cannot answer the question in that form.

34. In the House Mr. McCallum, on the 4th July, says, "I desire to say I received this letter late last night." Why did you not forward the letter to Mr. McCallum immediately after you received it?—I brought it down with me and handed it to him personally.

35. You did not consider it necessary to send it through the post?—No, I did not.

36. *The Chairman.*] We have received a letter from Mr. Carr which I think Mr. Sinclair should hear read. Mr. Carr had been called as a witness, and had written as follows: "Blenheim, 26th July, 1912.—The Hon. Thomas Mackenzie, M.P., Wellington.—Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 18th instant requesting my attendance at