

Privilege—Mr. Baldwin

Mr. Trudeau: He went on:

I think we are clearly involved in a cover-up in this matter involving the cabinet.

Another accusation, Mr. Speaker, in pretty specific terms.

An hon. Member: Pure corn.

Mr. Trudeau: I said I was going to quote the hon. member for Peace River. He said:

—it being quite clear that under the doubtful use of security and for probably illegal methods this government and its agencies have had no compunctions about making improper inquiries into political parties and politicians—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: The gentleman from the west.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alexander: Order; Mr. Speaker has risen.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. Prime Minister began by indicating the purpose for the quotations, and the purpose is relevant to the argument; there can be no question about that. He also extended to the Chair the invitation to stop him when I heard otherwise.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The point is, indeed, serious and relevant, but I think it has been documented in respect of the general accusations by members on one side or the other.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I accept your invitation, and I will skip about 100 pages of *Hansard* and go to page 496—which was rather late, I guess, in the debate—when the hon. member for St. John's wound up the debate, or just about did, for his party by summing up what I think has been their attitude as perceived by the country in this whole debate.

An hon. Member: Which hon. member?

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member for St. John's West. He said, in reference to the RCMP:

They have to be brought to heel, and their political masters who encouraged them, or who are hiding them, or who directed them or who condoned those acts, have to be brought to heel also.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I think the defence is not very difficult to make, and I accept Your Honour's ruling in advance. I know you will have a difficult job to arbitrate in these debates. If you think my words went beyond the bounds of propriety, you will just have to say so, Mr. Speaker, and you will hear my comments.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Is that a threat?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Trudeau.]

An hon. Member: Take heed; another accusation.

Mr. Trudeau: Surely that is a proper statement, Mr. Speaker. If you make such a ruling, I will be called upon to do something; is that not right?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alexander: That sounds sort of like a threat, Pierre.

Mr. Trudeau: What is the hon. member for Hamilton West getting so worried about?

Mr. Alexander: I always get worried when you get up.

Mr. Trudeau: Why is he so worried, sitting in his seat? Does he share the views of his colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West, who suggests we have to bring the RCMP to heel?

Mr. Alexander: I always worry when I see you stand up.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the hon. member is speaking for his party, but I think that is a very nice compliment he has just uttered.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: He means he is worried for the country.

Mr. Trudeau: His party should be worried, after the performance its hon. members went through in this House last week. They are afraid to return to it now without shame. I think his party should be afraid when we stand up and defend the RCMP.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): It is clear that the Prime Minister is in fine performing form.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if I might be permitted to listen to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Clark: This shows, sir, that given four days' rest in preparation for participation in the House of Commons, he can from time to time rise to the occasion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: Government members, sir, are trying to shout me down. They may continue to do that, as I have a great deal of patience and I will speak over their shouting if they want to continue. The people of Canada have the right, as does the House of Commons, to know what is going on here and what precisely it was that the Prime Minister, by this little act just put on by him, was trying to divert attention away from.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!