

Supply—Justice

and cannot agree with their conclusions I accept their right in the house to express their opinions and their feelings in as strong a language as they desire. I feel this is completely in accord with the practice of debate in the House of Commons.

But I do not consider the remarks which have just been made by the leader of the Opposition belong in that category. The speech made by the Leader of the Opposition on this occasion, as on other occasions in the past, shows one thing, right from the beginning the purpose of the right hon. gentleman is evident. He uses such phrases as "the Minister of Justice, who has not had very much practice in law, is telling us". Well, he can save his breath if he is trying to prove to the committee that I am not an expert in law. I am not an expert in law. But I do have good officials in the Department of Justice and I know just about enough law to be able to detect phony arguments.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cardin: From the speech the right hon. gentleman made this afternoon and from statements he has made both inside and outside the house it is quite clear to me that the great executioner is now after my political neck.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You committed suicide yourself.

Mr. Cardin: The right hon. gentleman's performance would have been as good and his speech would have been as vicious if in fact I had prosecuted Spencer and if I had not had proper surveillance mounted in regard to him. The real issue is not Spencer. This is merely an excuse to put into effect the execution which the hon. member has wanted to carry out for quite some time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cardin: In a speech not so very long ago he referred to me as a dwarf parading around in clothing I had inherited from a giant. I can tell the hon. member this: I would rather be a dwarf clothed in giant's garments—I presume the hon. member thinks he is among the giants—than be a giant clothed in dwarf's clothing, because there is much more exposed.

For the past 14 years I have sat in this house and I have watched the hon. member pummel away at a chosen political opponent, heaping abuse, ridicule, scorn, accusations and insinuations of all sorts upon him with

[Mr. Cardin.]

evident delight. Of course, he could be considered by some to be a great political debater, a great fighter except for one thing. The right hon. gentleman has a glass chin. He can't take it. He cannot take the least possible criticism, nor has he done so in the past.

• (12:40 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cardin: All right. Hon. members say that is not so. On Friday the hon. member for Yukon and again today the right hon. gentleman mentioned the speech I made four or five years ago when I dared to criticize the right hon. gentleman, when I dared to criticize the untouchable one because of his attitude as prime minister of this country.

Not only did I believe and do I now believe that every word I said at that time was right, but the right hon. gentleman, with his vicious attacks on individuals, his irresponsible accusations and insinuations in this house, is proving me to be right day by day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, the right hon. gentleman has not learned. He is still blasting his way through paper walls and open doorways. He is blasting himself out of the leadership of his party and out of parliament and maybe, Mr. Chairman, when that is done we will be able to do some work in this chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You have the Prime Minister applauding now.

Mr. Cardin: The right hon. gentleman knows that the problem of national security is an important one. Does he believe that the performance he has put on this afternoon is going to help in any way to solve that problem? Does he believe that the performance he has put on this afternoon is going to add any dignity or prestige to parliament? This is stirring up hostility in the house far beyond what is normal and necessary in debates in the house.

Mr. Ricard: What are you doing yourself?

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, it would seem to me that the right hon. gentleman has unfortunately attained a degree of political conceit that every time he decides to make loud noises he expects the government, parliament, and everyone in it to jump. Well, I refuse to jump.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cardin: I have made my case.