

Administration of Justice

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. member for Villeneuve has the floor.

Mr. Nielsen: I rise on a point of order. I have here a citation which may assist Your Honour. At page 133 of *Beauchesne* Your Honour will find paragraph (8), which reads:

A member having made assertions in speeches out of doors, relative to other members, and having repeated them in the House: Decided, that the proper way of proceeding with a view to ulterior measures was for the newspaper containing the expressions in question to be read by the Clerk at the table and for the admission by the member in question that he used them to be taken in a formal manner.

I would suggest that, on the basis of the preceding paragraphs to that citation, the article in question, which is in the possession of the hon. member for Villeneuve and which has been seen by a good many of us—I might say that the specific article has been seen by myself—be placed in the hands of the Clerk at the table. In that manner we may decide whether or not the substance of the point of order which I raised in the first place is indeed valid.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. I make this point of order in a spirit of good will and in an effort to pour oil on troubled waters.

In view of the fact that it is now known that Fräulein Gerda is alive in Munich and is prepared to testify—

Mr. Churchill: How do you know that? What is your evidence?

Mr. Herridge:—and in view of the precedent established last week by the Prime Minister, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) undertake to telephone Fräulein Gerda and ask her whether she wants an inquiry, and whether she can give names and later come to Canada to testify? Would he permit the leaders of all opposition parties to listen in on the telephone extension?

Mr. Churchill: I rise on the point of order, sir.

Mr. Herridge: Is the minister going to reply?

Mr. Churchill: I want to speak to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) in which he ridiculed, quite properly, the ministry. The reason I want to speak now is that he mentioned a person who the Minister of Justice told us

and informed the press and the public was dead. How can there be any rhyme or reason in discussing this situation when this person is dead? Does the hon. member know that she is alive, or is the minister going to tell us from his own knowledge that the woman is alive? Is somebody posing as a person who used to be here?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Has the hon. member a point of order?

Mr. Churchill: My point of order is that the hon. member for Kootenay West raised a point of order, mentioned the name of some woman living in Germany and was asking questions of the ministry. We have been assured by the ministry that the person so named is dead. What sort of farce is being made of this place?

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question. Would the hon. gentleman cite the passage in *Hansard* where the Minister of Justice said this woman was dead?

Mr. Starr: That appears in the press.

Mr. Pickersgill: I said in *Hansard*, because we cannot quote newspapers.

Mr. Churchill: I suggest that the information as to the death of the woman came from the Minister of Justice by way of one of his notorious press conferences. We have been asked, as has the public, to accept statements made at these press conferences. If the woman is now alive, then what the minister said at a press conference was false. Other things which he said at a press conference are possibly false also. That is the only conclusion that can be drawn. Let the Minister of Justice rise right now and tell us that he knows, on his own authority that this woman is alive, is living in Germany, and is the woman who was reported to have been in Canada. He is afraid to do this.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Apparently Conservative members have the floor although I had caught your eye and you had recognized me.

The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) says the Minister of Justice stated that Miss Munsinger was dead, always according to press reports, but as late as Thursday last, the Minister of Justice said that according to his information, Miss Munsinger had died of leukemia four years ago. The Minister did not affirm that she was