

Alleged Corruption in Government

Mr. Crouse: Howl him down.

Mr. Diefenbaker: These are the people who buy furniture; they howl me down. There is something that has arisen, and I should like to know from these ministers who paid the sales tax, and when it was paid, on that furniture?

There were two occasions. One was when Sir Wilfrid Laurier demanded and got the Hon. Israel Tarte's resignation in 1902, and the other was when Sir Robert Borden demanded and got Sir Sam Hughes' resignation in 1916.

Why should parliament not have the information regarding these matters? For the last six weeks parliament has not been sitting.

What did the former hon. minister without portfolio say today? He said he brought these matters to the attention of the federal Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau). Well, if he did and if they received the same attention from that hon. gentleman as so many other matters received, they must have been forgotten immediately.

The hon. member said something that is highly significant. The Minister of Justice is good talking outside the house, but he is not very much good when facing a person in the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He can make cowardly attacks outside the House of Commons in statements he would not make in this place.

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I think it is less cowardly to speak outside the house in certain circumstances than to rely on parliamentary immunity inside the house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the minister said that if there is any wrongdoing it will certainly not be while he is around, but ever since he has been around these matters have arisen. I say to him in this house that his course of action has been that of endeavouring to conceal rather than to reveal, and the action of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) has been to forget to tell parliament.

This afternoon the former minister without portfolio said there was a highly placed political figure who apparently produced a false statement against him. That is the way I took it down, and I ask who is this highly placed political figure? Who is this man who is able to get action on the part of the Minister of Justice by his falsification of documents?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Let us have the information. Let us get this information, something that has been denied to us over and over again and which was denied by the Minister of Justice who, it is said, speaks with such courage. What did the Minister of Justice do in this house last November? He denied to the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) that any member of his department had ever been implicated, a statement that was completely false, and he knew it when he made it.

We want to know who are these highly placed political figures who moved members of the Canadian government around.

If you think I am exaggerating, Mr. Speaker, let me read from the *Winnipeg Free Press* of February 1, which says this:

Men who assume the responsibilities of public office and are sworn to uphold and protect our laws must themselves abide by the strictest adherence to both the letter and intent of these laws. This obligation is much greater than that of the average citizen in matters of personal integrity and character.

Then it says this:

There can be no temporizing with chicanery or condoning of questionable or scandalous practices in matters of public trust. When evidence exists of the acceptance of favours, peddling of influence and other intrigue in high places, it cannot be excused or glossed over. Those who tolerate or help conceal such breaches of trust are themselves betraying their office.

I have read from a Liberal newspaper and what was stated there is representative of the views of Canadians in general.

When this matter is brought before the house the Prime Minister cavalierly brushes it aside and says it is exaggeration. I seem to recall that last November he forgot he had been told of wrongdoing in September. He forgot until he became aware of the fact that if the crime report were produced the cat would be out of the bag. Then he suddenly remembered and, as I said a moment ago, the Minister of Justice denied in the house that any member of his staff had been implicated in any way—

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): On a point of order—

Mr. Diefenbaker: —and he knew that was wrong.

Mr. McIlraith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to restrict the right hon. gentleman's right of debate here, but I do think the rules of the house should be applied to him when he seeks to rehash a debate that took place several months ago during the course of this session. Such a