

**Mr. McCurdy:** Madam Speaker, I do not know whether the hon. member was here when the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell was here and listed name after name, read from newspaper article after newspaper article as if every one of those articles reflected the truth.

I simply felt that it was appropriate to point out, to even it up, one or two examples of actions or involvements of members from his party just as, and I am afraid he must have missed it, I cited members of my own party.

At the core of it all this has nothing to do with whether members are Liberals, New Democrats or Conservatives. As my hon. colleague indicated, in the human character of this place there is the inevitability that human weaknesses will be exhibited.

There can be no higher plane than to stop this nonsense. There would have been a higher plane if the Liberals had come into this place and said something about what they are going to do about unemployment or what they are going to do about integrity in government. What I mean by integrity of government is telling people what they stand for and then pursuing what they stand for.

This is a party that in government or out cannot make up its mind about what it stands for. It has no other way of behaving than to engage in an almost constant parade of name calling.

It must stop because it hurts us all.

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I stand on this side of the House to answer one of the most spurious resolutions ever put before this House.

When I worked with the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell on the special committee this House established with the Senate in connection with the review of Bill C-43, and a conflict of interest report that we filed, I thought that he had given up being the chief honcho of the rat pack. He apparently has not. Apparently he decided today to dig deep, dig it out, spill it out and swirl it out in his usual old fashioned slimy way. I sometimes wonder why he does not go out of this House

and say some of the things he says in this House. I suspect he would be sued on many occasions.

The kind of thing that the member was saying today, the kind of detail of this debate, does us no good.

In today's *Quorum* there is an article about Senator Nurgitz, who was speaking to a reporter about leaving the Senate. He said in an interview that he resigned from the upper chamber. The article says:

He was not driven from political life but he admitted that he was tired of the politics and public scorn. He said he would have quit even if he hadn't received a judicial appointment.

Further on in the article it says:

Prominent Quebec businessman Claude Castonguay,—

who was a Senator in this place—

—who recently gave up his seat, also complained it was difficult getting respect from people once they realized he sat in the Senate.

The article then goes on to say:

Dr. Wilbert Keon, a world renowned heart surgeon, recently lamented he no longer enjoys the public admiration or respect he once did because he is now Senator Keon.

What has happened? What we have done in this place, what the rat pack has done, and what this kind of resolution before this House does is defame members of Parliament. In so doing, it defames all of us. It hurts all of us. It tears our reputation down. That was the finding of the joint committee of which the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell was a member.

The introduction of that report says on page 1:

Service to the Canadian public has always been the highest calling of a Canadian citizen. Traditionally, Parliament has attracted dedicated men and women, from diverse sectors of Canadian life, to serve their country and fellow citizens with integrity and commitment. As intimate observers, as well as participants in the political realm, we can affirm with confidence the honesty, integrity and commitment of the vast majority of Canadians who represent Canada in Parliament. But we know that it is no longer sufficient to state this fact, however emphatically. The cases wherein a few individuals have abused their positions of public trust have bred scepticism and, worse still, resignation to dishonesty and unethical behaviour as an attribute of politicians and political life.

We believe this does a disservice to all those who are dedicated to public service, who believe that it can still be the highest calling of the democratic citizen. The tradition of political philosophy from Plato to today has sought the parallel between the city and the citizen. The integrity and justice of the political life of the nation both mirrors and is mirrored in the integrity and justice of the inner lives of its citizens; the moral health of one is reflective of that of the other.