

already, that he has made enough trouble, and that, therefore, he should keep his peace during the debate.

The question around which the debate seems to revolve is as to whether or not this proposed committee is to be of any real value to the country and to the House of Commons. We have been assured by some on the government side that this committee can and will bring something of value into the consideration of the question of prices. However, the other day one hon. member, whom I cannot call a Liberal, but who sits with the Liberals, and who apparently is within the confidence of the caucus of the Liberal party—

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): That is wrong—not the caucus.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I will quote what he had to say, and then he can tell me whether he speaks on behalf of the government.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): How did he know whom you were talking about.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: Apparently the cap fits well. On February 4, the hon. member for Comox-Alberni said this, as reported at page 865 of *Hansard*:

I am quite sure that none of the hon. members is so politically naive as to think any recommendation brought in by this so-called committee, this, may I say, junior cabinet committee, will reflect anything but government policy.

If ever there was a clear case for having suspicion as to the motives of the committee, and its possibilities, then certainly here is very good material upon which to base that suspicion. The minister—well, he is not a minister yet—the hon. member for Comox-Alberni—

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I am hopeful.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: He is not a real Liberal probably.

Mr. SINCLAIR: What kind of Liberal?

Mr. ZAPLITNY: He sits with the party which supports the government. Yet he tells us in the house that we should not be so naive as to think any recommendation brought in by this so-called committee will reflect anything but government policy.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Is that not true of any committee? Let us be fair.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: If that is true—

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): It does not apply to this particular committee; it applies to any committee.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: If that is true, then there is no reason for setting up this committee, at all.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I did not say that.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I know.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Quote me through to the end.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I do not know what my hon. friend bases his opinion upon, but it is difficult to judge his position in the house. He reminds me, sir, of a hamadryad—

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I am an independent.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: —and in case he wonders what that is—

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I do not have to follow the party line; and you are not used to that.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: A hamadryad, Mr. Speaker, is a mythical nymph which lives with a tree, or in a tree. It dies with the tree, but is not part of the tree. That is the position he occupies on that side of the house. He is not of the party; he is simply with the party, and I think he will die when the government goes down.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Would the hon. member permit a question? Does he not think this is a much better seat than the one I occupied adjoining the hon. member for Cartier who is no longer with us?

Mr. ZAPLITNY: It probably is; but I am afraid the hon. member will find it too warm for comfort before very long. And while I am on that subject I might say to my genial friend the hon. member for Comox-Alberni that he has seen fit on several occasions to give advice to the C.C.F. group in the house.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Why don't you take it?

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I hope it was helpful.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: Only recently he twitted the C.C.F. by saying that he wishes we would take his advice and appeal to the more intelligent electors in the country. I have found it strange that every time we did make an appeal it was the hon. member for Comox-Alberni who answered.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Since last December.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: However, the question I was discussing was as to whether or not this