

Administration of Justice

It does not mean that I am in agreement with everything these people have done, but much has been made of these rumours and insinuations were spread throughout Canada, indicating that we had five or six French Canadians who were bandits and racketeers in Canada. The Conservatives did this, Mr. Speaker.

Let us stop wasting time around the Munsinger affair, and let us accept the Prime Minister's suggestion that a judicial inquiry be instituted to throw light on the question so that we, the legislators, can go ahead and start working for the benefit of 20 million Canadian citizens who are expecting results from our legislation.

[English]

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to reply to the questions asked by his new found friend?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam.

Mr. Churchill: His friend wanted answers.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, the house has been at an impasse now for two days and it is apparent that we are getting nowhere. It seems to me we have to find some way of resolving this matter, and resolving it as quickly as possible, so that the business of the house may continue in a normal way on Monday. There is no value at this time in placing the blame on one side or the other for these two days which we have wasted. I think the question now is, can we find some answer to the problem.

The hon. member for Villeneuve has said the answer lies in accepting the Prime Minister's offer of a judicial inquiry. I want to say that as far as we are concerned we have already indicated our willingness to have a judicial inquiry, providing the terms of reference are clear and specific. This was not true of the motion which was moved yesterday by the hon. member for Lapointe, which was used as the basis for the Prime Minister's offer.

I want to make it clear that merely referring the Munsinger case to a judicial inquiry, placing the onus on all the parties involved to prove their innocence, is wrong.

Mr. Nielsen: That is the principle.

Mr. Douglas: The reason this inquiry is being precipitated is that the Minister of
[Mr. Caouette.]

Justice made certain charges outside the house. If there is going to be a proper inquiry, those charges must be contained in the terms of reference and the onus must be on the Minister of Justice to prove those charges, not on the other parties involved to prove their innocence.

Mr. Nielsen: That is right.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, our objection has been that there has been no specific reference to the minister's charges. He has never made those charges in the House. I was somewhat concerned when a few minutes ago the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) asked the member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) whether he could quote from *Hansard* to show that the Minister of Justice had ever said that Olga Munsinger was dead. Of course, the statement about Olga Munsinger being dead was made by the Minister of Justice outside the house.

Mr. McIlraith: He never said it.

Mr. Douglas: It seems to me that the investigation is going to confine itself largely to the charges the minister has made in the house, and the only charge he has made in the house is that the Leader of the Opposition did not handle this security case properly.

Mr. Nielsen: He said he participated in the Munsinger case.

Mr. Pickersgill: Read yesterday's *Hansard*.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me—

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could ask a factual question? Has the hon. gentleman read yesterday's *Hansard* and the answer of the Minister of Justice which occasioned all this debate. I think he will find that he has circumscribed his point more than he intended to.

Mr. Douglas: I am saying that the important thing in the terms of reference is whether or not there will be specific charges made by the minister, either by taking a transcript of his interview with the press and attaching it to the terms of reference contained in the order in council, or by having the minister rise in this house and repeat the statements he made at the press conference.

● (5:00 p.m.)

Mr. Nielsen: Precisely.

Mr. Douglas: I do not know who is speaking for the government at the moment, it may be the house leader, but I ask whether they will undertake, so that we can get on