

I would remind the hon. member for Temiscouata that the item under consideration is termination of contracts. I think he should relate his remarks to that item.

Mr. POULIOT: Exactly, and here is the point. Harry Borden was a general counsel of the Department of Munitions and Supply, and as such he—

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Mr. Chairman—

Mr. POULIOT: I am just speaking—

Mr. ROWE: Sit down; this is on the point of order.

Mr. POULIOT: There is already one point of order.

Mr. ROWE: Sit down; you know the rules.

Mr. POULIOT: No, I will not sit down. I am speaking to a point of order, and I will not sit down.

Mr. ROWE: You should know the rules better than that.

The CHAIRMAN: Will both hon. gentlemen please sit down? I did not give a ruling on the point of order because I did not think it was necessary. I pointed out to the hon. member that he should confine his remarks to the item under discussion, and I thought that would be sufficient. But if the hon. member for Calgary West desires to speak to the point of order I cannot prevent him.

Mr. POULIOT: I think the hon. member who has the floor has the right to speak, Mr. Chairman.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. POULIOT: I will listen to the Chair, but not to those who shout at me to sit down.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Calgary West can speak to the point of order.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I merely wish to add, Mr. Chairman, that I think it would be an excellent idea if this house would agree in the presentation of the ig-Nobel prize for slander to the hon. member who has just been interrupted.

The CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the point of order. As a point of order has been raised, I can find nothing in standing order 41 that gives me the power to prevent any member from speaking about this gentleman who is not a civil servant, and therefore I cannot rule that the hon. member for Temiscouata is out of order. But I would again strongly urge upon him that he stay within the item under discussion, the termination of contracts.

[The Chairman.]

Mr. POULIOT: Yes, sir. Before continuing my demonstration of the fact that I was perfectly in order, I rise, Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege. I want the hon. member for Calgary West, if he is a gentleman, to withdraw the words "ignoble slander". That is the first step. Afterwards I will give my demonstration.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I bow to the chairman and to the hon. gentleman and withdraw the words.

Mr. POULIOT: That is all right. I give credit to my hon. friend the member for Calgary West for being the brightest legal mind on his side, if not in the whole house, but unfortunately he has defended the worst case to-day.

To continue my demonstration, Mr. Chairman, I may tell you that I was perfectly in order, because if things have been done as they should be done in the Department of Munitions and Supply the main duty of the general counsel was to examine contracts, and as we are now considering the termination of contracts we are studying contracts that have been accepted by the department on the advice of the man whom I have mentioned, Harry Borden; therefore if there is a man of whom I have the right to speak on this item it is Harry Borden. It is just because my hon. friends opposite do not stop a minute to make up their minds about him and the matter before the chair that I am interrupted. I know very well that they will listen to me even if my remarks are painful and may hurt those who glory in the past history of the Conservative party.

I do not speak now only as a Liberal. I speak mostly as a Canadian citizen who cannot understand why in his wisdom the present leader of the opposition has boosted the former minister of national defence, who recommended Borden to his post because they were both on the board of Barclay's bank, an international finance organization, and Borden having the money, and being with McTague, who made a mess of the war labour board, these two together were assigned as advisers to the leader of the opposition. They were appointed as advisers to the present leader of the opposition and they decided the policies of the party, and they told him to boost Ralston during the Grey North by-election. There you have the whole story of the rat who ate the cheese in the Department of Munitions and Supply.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, are the remarks of the hon. gentleman relevant to the item under discussion?