

published that way with the unanimous consent of the house, and I doubt very much that this consent can be given.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

As far as I am concerned, I am willing to give my consent provided the articles are also published in which I spoke of the Conservative party, notably of the former leader of the Conservative party as well—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Trudeau: —as what I said concerning the New Democratic party and the Social Credit party.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I suggest we return to a little bit of order.

Mr. Starr: Did you say anything about yourself?

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): What a leader you would make.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I was ready to sit down provided the members agreed to publish the article in *Hansard*, but you said consent was not unanimous in the house.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this is what I wish to say in conclusion. The Liberal party should realize that it is disgraceful to act in this way. It is not because a member, who has been elected democratically, rises and speaks his mind that we should try and punish him, because everybody is entitled to his own opinion. Why tell him: "You will not sit on committees"? We must not try and punish him in this way. It is antidemocratic and the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General is against antidemocratic gestures, against antidemocratic reactions.

Therefore, I object to the motion. I think that it is a shame to act in this way. Such actions have been condemned by the hon. Minister of Justice and now I, myself, condemn them too. I ask that for once, we stop considering the members as mere sheep, as a flock.

Therefore, I say to the Liberals: "Try to have a little backbone." Stop crawling on all fours like curly sheep and try to hold your head back and think for yourself. In other words, and I close my remarks with this

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sentence: Stop being, as the hon. Minister of Justice said, lousy Liberals.

[English]

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I may not be in complete agreement with all the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for Lapointe, but I am in agreement with some of them. It seems to me that it would have been in the best interests of the Liberal party not to have advanced this motion today after it was opposed in the house last night. There is some talk about a desire to conclude the business of the house; therefore it seems foolish to get into what appears to be a fundamental argument. This motion really asks us to undo something done by the house, not by the Liberal party. The Liberal party, as other parties, nominates those who are to sit on committees. These nominations are presented to the house in the form of motions, and these motions are normally routine. It is odd to see a motion of this type on the order paper.

In this particular case we should look at the attendance record of this member on committees. He has been on a large number of committees, and at the moment is being removed from membership on seven.

Some hon. Members: Five.

Mr. Peters: I stand corrected. My arithmetic never was very good. However, five is a sizeable number of committees. I believe this member has taken a very active part in the proceedings of those committees. There are some who disagree with the contentions he has put forward there, but I believe he has been faithful in his attendance.

● (3:00 p.m.)

I believe, Mr. Speaker, the government has been very foolish in bringing forward this motion at this time. The matter will come to a vote, and the members of the house will have to make an issue of it. The hon. member for York-Humber is not one of those who has prevented a quorum from being formed in committees of which he is a member; as far as my personal experience is concerned he has always arrived promptly and, if anything, the complaint has been that he has taken up more than his share of time in those committees. Nevertheless, this is an indication that he has been very interested and active in the committees concerned.

Another problem is this, Mr. Speaker. If after having been appointed a member of a