

Question of Privilege

Some hon. Members: You.

An hon. Member: And Nielsen.

Mr. Hamilton:—are hurt and his ego has been deflated, he does this awful thing. He charges many people with something he knows is not true. The minute the minister says "two or more cabinet members" he knows there must be some in that cabinet who are not guilty of the charge that he lays. All we ask him to do is name names and get us out of this position; suffer the consequences, be a man and resign his seat in the house.

Mr. Nielsen: That is the position in which he is.

● (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Hamilton: When this period of our history is written the Minister of Justice will not suffer; he will just be forgotten for his smallness of mind. But the man who has dragged down his party, his government and his country is the Prime Minister. Rather than face the fact which the country knows to be true, namely that his cabinet is divided, and get rid of those who will not behave as the custom of this house dictates, he will abide anything. From the action of the Prime Minister today, Mr. Speaker, it cannot be denied that he is the one who will pay the price. All he is doing now is trying to extend by a few hours, a week or maybe a few months his tenure of office. He does not dare take the long walk to the Governor General's residence.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. May I respectfully ask Your Honour whether a motion is before the house; and, if there is not, what are we now discussing?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member was in the house earlier this afternoon or this evening he will remember that the Chair expressed the opinion there were already two motions before the house, that there should not be a third one and that we should not be considering the matter any further. I asked for the assistance and co-operation of hon. members, but that co-operation has not been extended.

At the moment the house is considering a question of privilege which was raised by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). The hon. member for Yukon made the point—and I respect the point that he made—that this was a separate question of privilege. He has spoken on the question and I had assumed that hon. members who have taken part in the

[Mr. Hamilton.]

debate since then have been referring themselves to that question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Yukon this afternoon.

Mr. Lewis: May I raise a further point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is there any way in which you or we can avoid spending any more time this evening in personal attack and personal dirt?

Mr. Hamilton: I know how you feel, Mr. Speaker, but the hon. gentleman who has just sat down is not under the charge that some of us here are. Let him go home to his wife and family and endure what we have to endure.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Ricard: All they are interested in is ruining the reputation of others.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton) has the floor.

Mr. Hamilton: I was rising in reply to the statement by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), who does not seem to appreciate that there is a matter of more serious portent here than the question of a few minutes of time. This is a matter concerning the rights of the members of this house, and the only place this matter can be settled is here in the House of Commons. It cannot be dragged out over many months in any long investigation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair would appreciate the co-operation of all hon. members to give an opportunity to the hon. member for Qu'Appelle to make his point. The hon. member for Bow River.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, you asked—

Mr. Turner: May I raise a point of order, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Turner) on a point of order.

Mr. Turner: I should like to put a point of order to Your Honour. I thought the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) quite properly asked what question was before the house. It was my understanding that you had reserved consideration of the two motions in order to decide whether or not there was a prima facie case. How is it that hon. members are now addressing the house on these motions at the moment?

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, must we explain to every member who was not present before what has been happening here? Is everyone who comes into the