

House of Commons

thanking him for having written a favourable article about you and you comment upon the act, you do not always choose your words. I want to tell you gentlemen that I did not give 24 hours of thought to this letter. It is not something, you know, that I gave considerable meditation to. In the course of a great many letters, I wrote that letter. If I had written it to be publicized, I want to assure hon. members that I would never have included that sentence in it.

If I had had the chance to speak on the motion against myself my presentation would have been an objective one, without taking sides, as far as the arguments which were not concerned with rulings were to be dealt with.

Now, the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) says that I should retract.

Mr. Castleden: I cannot see the value of that at this time.

Mr. Speaker: I did not hear the remark.

Mr. Castleden: I said, I cannot see the value of that at this time in this situation.

Mr. Speaker: Well, if there is no value in dealing with the request of the hon. member for Prince Albert and to give an explanation of my interpretation of the words, I will not deal with it further. But I want to tell hon. members that ever since I was appointed on November 12, 1953 my resignation has always been at the disposal of the house. If one wishes to move a motion, after 48 hours' notice, stating the reasons why and concluding that the Speaker be removed I will resign immediately. See Beauchesne's third edition, citations 127, and 225 and 46.

Mr. McIvor: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, I have listened to the debate from both sides of the house and have seen what is going on. I think of another situation where the life of an individual was at stake, and the Divine Teacher said, Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): May I point out that there is nothing before the house. I suggest we proceed with the business of the house.

Mr. Speaker: I understand there is nothing before the house. Nevertheless, this matter is one of great importance. I would think that the hon. member for Nanaimo, if he wishes to speak at this moment, should be allowed to do so.

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am astonished that the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Howe) takes this

[Mr. Speaker.]

situation so lightly as to say there is nothing before the house and to attempt to deny to hon. members the right to speak on a question of this importance where we are charged with deliberate falsification.

Mr. Tucker: On a point of order, this may be important. If it is important, it should be dealt with properly under the rules. It can be dealt with under the rules by notice of motion, in which event everybody can take part in the debate. I object to the people on the other side making the statements they have made without a chance for anyone on this side to answer, and to say why things were dealt with in the fashion they were. That is exactly what the situation is.

If the members on the other side want to carry this thing farther and suggest that you have no right to your private opinions, and for that reason you should be censured; in other words that you should be asked to have no private opinions, then I think we on this side have the right to express our opinions. I do suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if this is important—and I agree it is important—then it should be put before the house properly so that we can all take part in it.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): If you are in any doubt, Mr. Speaker, on account of the point raised by the hon. member for Rosthern, I wish to raise another point of privilege, my own personal point of privilege, because, in this statement that appears here, I, like every other opposition member who took part in the debate on the motion of censure of yourself, have been accused, and lie under the accusation, of having falsified the facts to meet my own political ends.

I suggest to you, sir, that having gone so far you must go farther. You must indicate to this house what members falsified the facts, in what respect they falsified the facts, and if you are unable to do so, sir, then it would seem to me there is only one course open to you and that is the course suggested by the Leader of the Opposition just now. That is the situation we are in today. We all lie under this imputation. It has gone all across the country that, in your opinion, some of us at least falsified the facts in this debate.

I must say, sir, I cannot take too seriously your suggestion that you wrote this letter in a moment of light-hearted carelessness. People do not carelessly make serious accusations of this sort. They are not the sort of things you slip in by accident when you are not thinking. I suggest, sir, you have to go farther now and indicate to this house precisely which members falsified the facts and in what respect they falsified the facts. If