

Administration of Justice

when charges have been levelled against Privy Councillors in the government. We have been accused collectively of every crime in the calendar.

Mr. Starr: But names were named.

Mr. Pearson: No names were named.

Mr. Starr: Yes, they were.

Mr. Pearson: My hon. friend from Yukon kept insinuating: "Wait till next week when I get my answers, when I get my files; then heads will fall". No names were mentioned.

Now my hon. friend for Burnaby-Coquitlam, who had never a word to say on the previous occasions, becomes very indignant when I say that we will set up a judicial inquiry which will go into all aspects of this matter and the allegations in question. I stated, and I stated it last night, that we would do that. I have also said that if my hon. friend and hon. members opposite do not like this they can vote no confidence in the government on a supply motion and throw it out. My hon. friend was not in the house last night perhaps when I dealt with this inquiry, as reported at page 2532 of *Hansard*. I dealt in my statement with all the points which he has mentioned this morning as being suitable for the inquiry. What more do they want? He does not want this matter to be submitted to the committee on privileges and elections, and I would agree with him. He will get the order in council enabling the judicial officers concerned to go into all aspects of this matter. On that inquiry the Minister of Justice will stake his seat in this house. What more do they want, Mr. Speaker?

I have before me a great many clippings of statements made by members opposite about cleaning up the mess, prosecuting wrongdoers and international crime getting into the office of the Prime Minister—all that kind of thing. Were names named then? Of course they were not. We have been subjected to this kind of treatment now, for too long over here. And reputations have been ruined over here.

• (11:40 a.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: Because a member of the government did not pay a furniture bill until all the furniture had been delivered he was pilloried and persecuted.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: Now those gentlemen on the other side of the house who have been so free

with their accusations over the last few years are getting a little of it, and they don't like it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: We have said we will set up a judicial inquiry which will go into all the aspects of this case, all the allegations made—the references made in the press conference as well as the references made in the house. And I hope this will satisfy hon. gentlemen opposite.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas: It now becomes apparent why these charges have been made by the Minister of Justice. Apparently this is part of a counter campaign—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas:—to relieve the government's feelings after all the attacks to which they have been subjected. I want to say to the Prime Minister that whatever attacks have been made on the government by members on this side of the house, at least the charges were made in the house where they could be replied to, and not outside the house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas: When a minister of justice tries members in other parts of the house in a trial before a press conference, and then refuses to get up in the house and substantiate what he said, it becomes very apparent that what the government is trying to do is tell the people of Canada that while they may be bad, the people in the Conservative party are no better. This is a queer way to run a country.

The Prime Minister asks: What more do you want? We want the Prime Minister to let us see the terms of reference so that we may be sure they contain something more than the statements which are found in the letter of the Minister of Justice. We want set out in the terms of reference what the charges of the Minister of Justice were before the press conference—

Mr. McIlraith: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Nielsen: Could I ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Public Works.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Yukon can ask his question afterwards. I have to recognize one or the other. One at a time; the Minister of Public Works.