

Mr. Chairman, not since Saul's journey to Damascus has parliament seen such a welcomed conversion.

I know that it will be embarrassing to the Minister of Justice after he said, "Here I stand." He said, "No change will be made in any circumstances; we are right." The Prime Minister had taken the same stand. Along came the Solicitor General who, with a suavity that appeals to me greatly, spoke against anything being done. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration made a very brilliant contribution, and ended up by agreeing with the government and the stand that it had taken. I welcome this change of heart from the Prime Minister to the youngest of the cabinet ministers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It just shows the power of parliament to convert what appeared to be the unconvertible, and to bring about such a change of heart that even the President of the Privy Council must marvel. As for the Minister of Justice, I feel very keenly for him, because he stood where the government stood. He stood absolutely firmly and said, "Never." When he went to sit down, the Prime Minister had removed the chair. Everything that he said—and he followed the Prime Minister meekly in this—and that the other ministers said, today is cast overboard. Common sense has taken the place of stubbornness and absolute stupidity.

I want to make one further reference, and it is this: I cannot understand the endeavour to blackmail the opposition. That is what it was.

Mr. Churchill: Shameful.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The President of the Privy Council some days ago told one of the hon. members sitting on this side of the house that if we pressed the Spencer case there would be a revelation relating to what took place during my administration.

Mr. Churchill: Shameful.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes. We shall have more to say about that.

An hon. Member: Terrible.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Minister of Justice looked over at me and said, in effect, "We will fix you." Threats and intimidation, Mr. Chairman, do not work. We do not scare easily.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Supply—Justice

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, for the past two or three weeks the right hon. gentleman—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well now—

The Chairman: Is this a question of privilege?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have the floor. Is the Minister going into another of these tirades? I have that fear.

The Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: There is no privilege going back two or three weeks.

The Chairman: The Minister of Justice rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, for the past two or three weeks the right hon. gentleman and others on the other side of the house have been making insinuations of all types to the effect that this government was hiding something from the people, and that we have acted in a wrong way. Hon. members opposite have been making insinuations of that sort continuously.

No one on the opposite side of the house, or on this side, ever mentioned anything about blackmail. I have during the course of the debate just asked that the hon. member—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Cardin:—explain his part—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Cardin:—and go home.

The Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: The Chair is not able to discern any question of privilege in the minister's remarks. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, he thought by that—and the threat was made over and over again as to what they were going to do—that they were going to close our mouths. Let me make this statement unequivocally: in no case, and I am naturally bound by my oath as a privy councillor—which apparently did not apply to the Minister of Justice—was there ever any breach of security in this nation in any case referred to or conjured up by him. Second, there was no danger to national security, and I will go into that tonight, in anything that took place.