Administration of Justice

Mr. Nielsen: —that if this tactic is allowed to go unpunished by this parliament every member of this house is open to the same treatment.

● (1:00 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: One o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I take the liberty to mention to the hon. member for Yukon that the time allotted to him under the rules expired some 12 minutes ago. According to the information I have from the table he started making his speech at 12.10, and the Chair has made allowance for the many interruptions. Allowance of some 10 minutes or so has been made for the points of order and questions of privilege that were raised while the hon. member had the floor. So, with regret, I have to advise him his time has expired.

Mr. Peters: On a point of order, may I ask Your Honour if it is possible to revert to the old standing orders and adjourn for lunch?

Mr. Speaker: It is a very worth-while suggestion but the Chair is in no position to accept it.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I agree with what has been said by members of my own party that this is a debate that should be as short as it possibly can be. However, I want to add a few words, not in the spirit of attack and counter-attack, smear and counter-smear which seems to me to be the root trouble that has caused the morass or mess we are in at the present time. I want to try to make a contribution, if I may, to some sort of resolution of the difficulty we are in.

Mr. Churchill: May I ask a question before the hon. member proceeds? What does he mean by smear and counter-smear, particularly counter-smear?

Mr. Brewin: I do not think I want to answer that question in any detail now. Surely all members of the house know there have been attacks and counter-attacks, insinuations and counter-insinuations, and if they do not know that I am afraid—

Mr. Churchill: Substantiate that.

Mr. Brewin: —they do not appreciate what has been going on in the house for some time.

Mr. Churchill: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member now entering into the debate is making vague, unsubstantiated charges against members of

[Mr. Nielsen.]

the house. He is talking about smear and counter-smear, attacks and counter-attacks, but I am particularly interested in this reference to smear and counter-smear.

An hon. Member: Well, you have done a lot.

Mr. Churchill: He is making an unsubstantiated attack on members of the house. Let the hon. member mention any smear or counter-smear in which I have been engaged, because I am one of the members of the house.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Churchill: I remain on the question of privilege. If the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), uncourageously standing behind the curtains, has accused me of smearing, then I ask Your Honour to have him withdraw that remark.

Mr. Grégoire: I told you—all the Conservative party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Cape Breton South.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, is the Chair going to permit the hon. member for Lapointe to interject from behind the curtain a remark in reference to smearing and allow it to stand without even asking him to withdraw the remark which was made behind the curtain?

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member please sit down. Remarks made outside the curtain are made outside the official confines of the house and I doubt that the Speaker has any right to rule on them.

Mr. Grégoire: On the question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I have given the floor to the hon. member for Cape Breton South. If he has finished his remarks I will hear the hon. member for Lapointe.

Mr. Grégoire: It is very easy to substantiate all these things and to prove my case I should like to table *Hansard* for the last two years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Grégoire: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I would suggest to the hon. member for Lapointe that this has already been dealt with very effectively.