

Question of Privilege

was not implicated." I am not doing it for that purpose at all. I do not care what these Liberals do or say about me. They have said everything in the past anyway so it does not matter. I do not care what accusations the Minister of Justice may make right at this very moment. But I challenge him to make his statements here in the house, not outside the house. He tried to persuade us that he made his statements on Friday and that he was not challenged. He did not implicate one or two or more of the Privy Council on Friday. He did not say in the house what he said outside or he would have been challenged immediately, and he knows it. That is the value of this debating chamber; this is where people are challenged immediately. How do you catch up with these outside stories? Is he going to rush to another press conference later today and give out a little more information, more innuendo, more scandal, more involvement? This is what he will be up to, this Minister of Justice who is supposed to sustain the law of this land and set an example.

Mr. Nielsen: A fine example.

Mr. Churchill: This is my question of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker. I have been accused along with others by this Minister of Justice of having been involved somehow or other and I ask him—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: The Liberals laugh again. They think this is just nonsense. They will destroy parliament if we give them the opportunity. I hope we are here to prevent them doing so.

An hon. Member: The minister laughs too.

Mr. Churchill: I ask the Minister of Justice to get up in this house as a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, make his apology to the House of Commons—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill:—and withdraw the statements that he made outside this house. Alternatively, let him get up and make his accusations clearly and plainly right here and then let us see what happens.

I present this motion in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, based on my question of privilege. I think it must come to a decision of this house. It must come to a vote and not be shoved aside, shunted into some corner or

[Mr. Churchill.]

some committee. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr):

That the Prime Minister immediately call for the resignation of the Minister of Justice on the basis of the improper conduct of the minister in the making of improper accusations against the right hon. Leader of the Opposition and all Privy Councillors in the former government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: The motion which has just been submitted to the Chair by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre is substantially the same as the one already before the Chair moved by the hon. member for Yukon. At that time I asked hon. members to give the Chair an opportunity to look into the situation further, because certainly I think it is not entirely correct to submit a series of motions to the Chair in such a very important matter, such a very delicate matter, and ask that a ruling be made, except when there is a very clear case.

It is my opinion that the first motion put before the house constituted a very clear case and by reason of precedents it was clear that the motion should not be accepted. May I suggest to hon. members now that I be given an opportunity to look at the motions made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre and the hon. member for Yukon. This is a request that is very reasonable and which the Chair is entitled to make according to practice. I trust hon. members will agree to give the Chair this opportunity.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, while you are looking at the motion might I be allowed to say a word on the necessity of dealing with this matter today, immediately, now. The charges and allegations that have been made—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has had an opportunity to speak. I wonder whether there is anything he can now say that will add to what he has said on the previous motion. I am not being unreasonable at all or unfair, I think, to hon. members when I ask them to co-operate with the Chair. I believe that hon. members have a responsibility in this matter to co-operate with the Chair and I ask hon. members to co-operate with me in this regard. This is all I am asking at this time.

Mr. Nielsen: With deference, Mr. Speaker, I have not had any opportunity at all to speak on the merits of the motions that have been made. I have only had the opportunity to speak on whether there exists a prima facie case of privilege. In the meantime the urgency of this matter, because these allegations of