

question of privilege if he so desires. The purpose of my rising today is to raise such a question of privilege.

You asked me why I did not participate in the earlier discussion. The earlier discussion was on the question whether or not there was a question of personal privilege and some hon. members ranged over a wide field regarding this issue. That is why I did not participate. I knew you would rule that there was a prima facie question of privilege. This was obvious to everyone in the chamber. The matter of the motion is a different question. I suggest I do have a question of personal privilege. It may be very similar to that raised by the hon. member for Calgary North but it is equally important to me and to every member of the Privy Council. I am surprised that the members of the Privy Council sitting on the other side of the house are so disinterested in an issue of this kind they would not disavow the aspersions that have been made about members of the Privy Council in the statements of the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Starr: Unless they are part and parcel of the whole situation.

Mr. Churchill: I am astonished that the Prime Minister of this country wants to withdraw this issue from the house and present it to some sort of committee. It might not be debated again in this chamber. Let us settle it right here and now. Let the Minister of Justice name names and cases.

Mr. Nielsen: Put up or stop fooling around.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: Put up or stop fooling around.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Churchill: The Minister of Justice has pursued his normal course of attacking the Leader of the Official Opposition when he is not in this chamber. He did the same thing several years ago. That is the normal course he follows. The minister has cast aspersions on members of the Privy Council outside of this chamber and in this chamber and it is up to them to settle this matter right away. As was suggested earlier, he should disclose his facts here and now or withdraw the statements he has made.

Mr. Nielsen: Or he should resign.

Question of Privilege

Mr. Churchill: If this matter is referred to a committee it will go on for weeks and months, and smears, innuendos and McCarthyism will be spread right across this country.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: Mark you, sir, this will be used by various people for political purposes to destroy—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: The Liberals are laughing at this.

Mr. Nielsen: That is typical.

Mr. Churchill: That is typical of them; it is typical of their attitude toward parliament.

Mr. Ricard: That is their way of working.

Mr. Churchill: They would like to have this serious matter brushed aside as carelessly as they have suggested, by sending it to a committee. The Prime Minister knows how serious this matter is.

An hon. Member: He will not give any leadership.

Mr. Churchill: I do not agree with the Prime Minister on many things but he has given long service to this country. He is the head of his party and the head of this government.

Mr. Starr: He is a member of the Privy Council.

Mr. Churchill: The Prime Minister was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in England and he is a right hon. member. He knows that a slur cast on a member of the Privy Council should be resisted by the leaders of the Privy Council. In this House of Commons we have only two members who are right hon. members of the Privy Council, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. They were both sworn in by the Queen and they have the title of right honourable. They know we look to them for leadership. When the advisers to Her Majesty the Queen are affected by a slur I should think that the Prime Minister would be the first person to resist.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

• (4:00 p.m.)

Mr. Churchill: As the hon. member for Calgary North said, members of the Privy Council sitting on this side of the house are not under any obligation to rise and say "I