

*Question of Privilege*

We have two questions before us. One concerns what is alleged to have taken place four or five years ago. The other relates to what has taken place during the last few hours, the statements made by the Minister of Justice. The most important question before us at this time concerns the statements made by the Minister of Justice during the last few moments and in the last few hours. The minister has made charges against the cabinet of another day en bloc, with no regard at all for those who were innocent.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some difficulty in following the hon. member. I gathered, when he got to his feet, that he wanted to refer to a question of privilege. I may say in passing that I am in full agreement with everything he has said and with the citations to which he has referred. I might add that it is in keeping with those citations that the Chair has tried, even gone out of its way, to give every hon. member an opportunity to take part in the debate today.

This having been said, we must recognize that we have to go back to something. Before the hon. member took the floor I believe we had agreed that the hon. member for Yukon would be allowed to present his motion to the Chair although it was not placed before the house. I assume the hon. member will now wish to address himself, perhaps, to a new question of privilege; but not, I suggest, to the one we have already disposed of to some extent.

I should put it this way: really we have nothing at this time before us, the question of privilege raised at seven o'clock by the hon. member for Yukon having been received by the Chair for the purpose of taking it into consideration. The hon. member has raised a question of privilege with which I am in full agreement.

● (9:20 p.m.)

If he wants to raise another question of privilege he is free to do so, but for the guidance of the Chair he should state what it is he wants to speak about.

**Mr. Nasserden:** I had very little more to say, Mr. Speaker, but I was trying to draw on the statement the Chair made a little while ago, in which you indicated you had not quite made up your mind this matter was of such urgency that the minister should make a statement to the house substantiating the allegations he has made. It is that point which I am trying to draw to Your Honour's

attention. I do not think in Your Honour's experience, or in that of any member of the house, we have ever had anything come before us that could be considered more urgent, especially when we think of the implications of the allegations made by the Minister of Justice, unsupported allegations, that touch on the morality and integrity of so many members of the house, and indeed touch on all members of the house.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have said many things today but one thing I hope I did not say is what the hon. member says I said. May I suggest at this point, since we have another 40 minutes to go this evening that we return to the order of business we had proposed to consider at seven o'clock.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Heward Graftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams), that the house now adjourn.

[*English*]

**Some hon. Members:** Ten o'clock.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, there is a motion which has just been moved by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Graftey). I am leary about going back to Standing Order 25 which gave me some difficulty this afternoon, but perhaps this time my interpretation will be accepted. I understand the Standing Order requires that there be an intermediate proceeding and, to the best of my knowledge, since the last motion was made there has been no intervening procedure. We have been on the question of privilege, and I would like to hear hon. members on this point.

**Some hon. Members:** Ten o'clock.

**Mr. Speaker:** I see some hon. members looking at me with learned looks, and they might like to advise the Chair on this point. My view, and my interpretation would be that there has not been an intermediate proceeding. In view of this I do not think that the motion moved by the hon. member can be received at this time.

**Mr. Howard:** May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker, because obviously we are not going to get any business done anyway.

**Mr. Speaker:** We can call it ten o'clock if there is unanimous agreement.