

Question of Privilege

member for Calgary North. I cannot find any difference at all between the hon. member's question of privilege and the one raised by the hon. member for Calgary North. I can see no point in every member of the Privy Council getting up at this time to raise exactly the same question of privilege. A ruling has been made by the Chair and I would invite the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre to take into account that ruling and what has been said by the Chair.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, you are suggesting that members of the Privy Council should not raise this point. You acknowledged that the hon. member for Calgary North had a question of privilege and that question was settled, but I have a question of privilege too. The Minister of Justice implicated all members of the privy council who served in the cabinet of the present Leader of the Opposition. I happen to be one of those members of the Privy Council. You may have settled in your mind the question raised by the hon. member for Calgary North, but I have a case to put forward regarding the statements of the Minister of Justice which affect me as a Privy Councillor and affect every other member of the Privy Council. That is the question of personal privilege I wish to raise at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I cannot agree with the logic of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. The motion which was made did not refer to the hon. member for Calgary North, it referred to the fact that there were allegations made affecting members of Her Majesty's Privy Council. The hon. member for Calgary North in his presentation never suggested that the allegations applied only to him. His motion and the arguments submitted in its favour during its presentation referred to a matter of privilege which affected all Privy Councillors, not just one.

It is obvious in my mind that the ruling which has been made in connection with the question of privilege and the motion of the hon. member for Calgary North applies in the same way to the question of privilege which the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre may have. That earlier privilege and motion have been put to the Chair, considered and ruled upon.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I am not speaking to the motion which you ruled out of order. Unless I did not hear correctly, the hon. member for Calgary North raised a personal question of privilege. In speaking to

[Mr. Speaker.]

that question he said it affected all members of the Privy Council who had served under the former Conservative government. He then moved a motion with which you were not in agreement. I am not speaking to that motion, sir. I am raising a question of personal privilege which, as I have stated, is based upon statements made by the Minister of Justice and I demand my right to be heard. Freedom of speech is at stake in this house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: My suggestion to the hon. member is that there is no question of freedom of speech involved. We have spent over an hour now on a very important question of privilege.

An hon. Member: Is there a limit to the freedom of speech?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary North was given every freedom to express his question of privilege and the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre had an opportunity to take part in that discussion. He was not denied the right to speak on that question of privilege. Certainly if the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Calgary North meant anything, it was meant to apply to all Privy Councillors. It applies to Privy Councillors on both sides of this house. I cannot agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre that there is a separate and distinct question of privilege in that he would be affected personally and distinctly from the hon. member for Calgary North. For that reason I cannot allow him to re-open the whole question at this time.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that you cannot deny an hon. member the right to raise a personal question of privilege. There is a question of privilege in respect of the statement made by the Minister of Justice to the effect that one or more ministers were involved. He said there were two or more ministers involved, as reported in some press accounts, and he has not denied that he has made that statement. Once he used the word "more" he made it all-inclusive, and there is a question of personal privilege in respect of every member of the Privy Council who wishes to raise it today. It does not matter how many other questions of privilege may have been raised. The fact that the hon. member for Calgary North said that these statements affected every member of the Privy Council does not prevent every member of the Privy Council from raising a