

*Administration of Justice*

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I respect your advice, and I compliment you on the way you have handled yourself and this house during the last several trying days. I point out, Mr. Speaker, that a lot has been said by people in these last couple of days which has not been relevant to the question before the house. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, not one member of our party has spoken. This is the first time I have spoken. Beyond that, what I am saying is directly relevant to the particular situation in which we are now.

If we do not solve the problem which faces us at this time, when we come back on Monday we shall go on in exactly the same way as we have today. What I hope to say is very much part of the argument that, I think, relates directly to the question that you have before you, and that all of us are endeavouring to consider.

We have talked about the question of the free vote on capital punishment, Mr. Speaker. In the meantime we have a mounting list of convicted murderers with commuted death penalties and no clear policy about that, so far as this house is concerned. We have a growing crime rate and increasing evidence of international crime syndicates, as well as subversive groups strengthening their position in the country.

We have small businessmen forced out of business by discriminatory taxation policies that have grown up with no clear direction. Why has this happened, Mr. Speaker? Because we have spent the last four years calling each other names, and because we have had filibusters.

**An hon. Member:** That is an election speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; the hon. member for Red Deer said a moment ago that what he has to say relates to the situation of the house. We should not discuss the situation of the house at the present time. We should discuss the matter before the house, which is the question of privilege.

**Mr. Thompson:** I am only following something which I thought Mr. Speaker said—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Kindt) seeks permission to ask a question of the hon. member for Red Deer.

**Mr. Kindt:** I wonder if the hon. member for Red Deer would let the house know who shot the cow and the pigs?

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**An hon. Member:** Who had the gun?

**Mr. Thompson:** That kind of question, Mr. Speaker, indicates the type of man asking it. If he wants to know he might ask the R.C.M.P.

● (5:20 p.m.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are actually filibustering the business before the house instead of proceeding with some of the matters about which we have been talking. Our collective responsibility to 20 million people demands that we do something else. All I have tried to say is that the discussion before us should be terminated. It was brought on by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Harkness). We shared the concern he expressed in his original presentation because we know him and respect him. We can understand the position in which he was placed as a result of the remarks which were made at the press conference and carried in the press. I sympathize with him, but I know he is a reasonable gentleman. He knows that some agreement must be arrived at.

When the Prime Minister suggested there should be a judicial inquiry with certain provisions, the hon. member said it seemed to be the only way to resolve the question. So, in principle, he agreed to it, provided certain items were included in the terms of reference.

Therefore, it seems to me that before we leave here tonight there should be some basis for negotiation over the week end to resolve this matter. As the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) said, it would seem that the only basis on which to arrive at agreement is to accept the suggestion of the Prime Minister that a judicial inquiry be set up. The hon. member for Calgary North specified the need for urgent action. The hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam said there must be satisfactory terms of reference. We agree with this, and I think it is the only logical answer. I can see no other answer.

Certainly an answer will not be found by coming back here on Monday and wrangling all day. My suggestion would be this: Could not the hon. member for Calgary North and, if he wishes, somebody else as well, meet with the Prime Minister with a view to coming together and working out terms of reference satisfactory to both sides? This would enable the government, through an