

Administration of Justice

Mr. Churchill: I am speaking to a question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre is on a question of privilege.

Mr. Grégoire: He is making a speech.

• (4:30 p.m.)

Mr. Churchill: I am on a question of personal privilege, and I raise this question of privilege because of the attack made on me, and made on members of the Privy Council of the former administration by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette). That is why I am talking. I was going to say I wish that the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), custodian as he is of the traditions of this institution, would intervene. When members like the hon. member for Villeneuve cast these slurring remarks about hon. members and infringe on their privileges, I wish the Prime Minister would come here and add his voice to mine in condemning that type of action.

I wish that the dean of the House of Commons, the respected Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), who has lived in this institution for 30 years or more—

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Churchill: —would raise his voice in condemnation of the action of the hon. member for Villeneuve. That is what I would like to see happen.

Mr. Grégoire: On a point of order—

Mr. Churchill: That is why I am speaking on this matter of personal privilege, and I cannot be interrupted on a point of order.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) is already on a question of privilege.

Mr. Grégoire: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre is on a question of privilege.

Mr. Grégoire: Not any more; that is what I want to point out to you.

Mr. Nielsen: Are you the new Speaker?

[Mr. Grégoire.]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

Mr. Churchill: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Grégoire: The hon. member for Villeneuve had the floor.

Mr. Churchill: I have the floor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre was given the floor on a question of privilege, and I hope that the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) would allow him to continue.

Mr. Churchill: The hon. member for Villeneuve had the floor earlier but he raised a matter which brought me to my feet on a point of personal privilege and I am entitled, as Your Honour knows, to speak on this matter of personal privilege. I was showing how his unfounded accusation, for which he must accept responsibility, and for which he certainly should be reprimanded, was derived from some press report or another, referring to a woman whom the Minister of Justice assured us, according to his information, had been dead for over four years.

Is this an impostor who has brought names and accusations into public print to serve somebody's purpose? I say immediately that this matter should be investigated by the Minister of Justice and the R.C.M.P. to see whether or not we are being imposed upon by someone posing as the person whom the minister told us died four years ago. On the basis of this statement, which seems to be the statement of an impostor, the hon. member for Villeneuve accepting that statement as his own, has made an accusation against hon. members of the house.

That, sir, is the type of privilege of which all members should take note. Otherwise, if this goes on, if some other hon. member later today makes some other statement of similar character, then it is a question of one accusation after the other, and it is an infringement of the rights and privileges of this house. It is a shocking state of affairs that we should have reached this stage. I accordingly move, Mr. Speaker, seconded—

Mr. Caron: You cannot. It is impossible.

Mr. Nielsen: It is a question of privilege.

Mr. Churchill: I am making this motion, founded on my question of privilege, and I move, seconded by Mr. Winkler:

That the hon. member for Villeneuve be called upon to substantiate the charges made against a member of the Privy Council, or resign his seat.