

*Administration of Justice*

from being brought into being. I know they are concerned about the truth and bringing out the truth about the matters involved in this case. I merely suggest to them that the best way we can bring out the facts in a judicial and fair way, under proper rules and procedures where witnesses are protected and where the judge with all his experience will be able to see to it that the process is not used to blacken anyone's name unfairly, is to set up an inquiry. I think we have a precedent for this in the Dorion inquiry which was accepted unanimously by the house at that time. Hon. members thought that was a wonderful procedure and I do not think the procedure has become any worse, any less responsible or effective as a result of the fact that it is now one year older.

I do suggest with respect to the qualms of the hon. gentlemen of the New Democratic party, which are quite proper, that this would not be some kind of a narrow restricted inquiry to prevent enlightenment with regard to the very situations on which we require to be enlightened, that they have the undertaking of the Prime Minister to the effect that the inquiry will be sufficiently broad that a judge may find on all facts pertinent to this matter, including the press conference and including anything that was said in this house.

● (1:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Winkler:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, this morning when I rose and stated the case for this side of the house I did not disagree with the terms as stated by the Prime Minister regarding the judicial inquiry. We do not object to them now, but what we want and what must take place in this house today is that the Minister of Justice rise and substantiate his charges, his statements and all the inferences in his press conference. When that is done the situation will be resolved. It is that simple. So far as this minister is concerned, he should talk about dairy policy.

**Mr. Greene:** I will not speak of specious points of order, Mr. Speaker, because they have been made ad nauseam. But I do in all sincerity believe this is the best and the only way that I know in which this matter can be resolved in a manner that is just and proper and will still leave this house with full authority and responsibility to do whatever is deemed proper, whatever is deemed just and whatever is deemed to be in the best interests of the house after it has all the facts as found by the judicial inquiry.

**Mr. Winkler:** Are you going to allow this type of press conference to go on?

**Mr. Greene:** If there is no such finding of fact by the judicial officer who has the authority to do so at the hearing, if in fact any allegations that were made at the press conference are found to have no basis in fact, with the result that a member was traduced contrary to the rules of the house, then the house will have every authority and right to take action.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** What is the Minister of Justice laughing at?

**Mr. Greene:** But such action by the house should be based on a finding of fact by the judicial authority and not through a procedure which does not exist, which is the position in which we now find ourselves.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

**Mr. Greene:** I would be pleased to do so.

**Mr. Churchill:** Is the minister suggesting a commission of inquiry whose terms of reference would be headed "Prove your innocence"? My question is similar to that asked by the hon. member for Ontario this morning. Before that commission of inquiry would various hon. members from this side of the house be called to prove their innocence?

**Mr. Greene:** I certainly would not agree to an inquiry of this nature. I quite appreciate the difficult position of some hon. Privy Councillors opposite. The inquiry, as the Prime Minister has indicated, would give some respected judicial person broad authority to inquire into all the facts and certainly would not be for the purpose of putting anyone personally on trial. Any action pursuant to the findings of such an inquiry would be for the house to take and not for the judicial inquiry to take.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a question? What is to prevent the Minister of Justice calling another press conference on Monday morning and making similar charges?

**Mr. Greene:** With respect, Mr. Speaker, I think this would be the very salutary benefit of the appointment of a commission of inquiry as quickly as possible. As the hon. member for Calgary North so properly requested last night, such an inquiry should be set up immediately because the matters with which it would be concerned would be sub judice and it would be most improper from that