

Motion Respecting House Vote

been spending too much time before the cameras. A week ago every time we looked at television we saw the Minister of Justice rushing forward. However, in the last few days we have had another view of him, and he was running away from the cameras.

The Minister of Justice was running away because, as a constitutional expert, he knows very well that he cannot defend the position of this government. If time permitted, Mr. Speaker, I should have liked to quote some of the things this minister has had to say about his present leader. However, time does not permit. If the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs feels he has a question of privilege because he was quoted in the house about his wish to run as opposition leader, then I may tell him this indicates how wrong cabinet ministers can be. They do not know when they have a question of privilege or when they do not. The fact remains that the minister has been quoted in the press to this effect, although he may have made the statement with tongue in cheek. The fact is that this idea has gone through his mind, and this is the destiny he sees for the leader of the Liberal party. It is a destiny which has been earned.

The lip, or the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene), is not in his seat. He is usually interjecting.

An hon. Member: Joe, the lip.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): He takes exception to any reference made to the fact he is campaigning around the country. This is the same minister who told a television audience in Halifax that at that particular time the most important thing facing the Canadian nation was unity. You can imagine the kind of leadership he will give the country.

Mr. Turner: You have two more minutes.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): There is always tomorrow, for at least this side of the house. This Minister of Agriculture thinks along the same lines as the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. It is not too long ago that he put his foot in his mouth, and shouted at a member from this side of the house who was persistent in asking a question, that the member was trying to work his way into the cabinet. This answer indicated the Minister of Agriculture also realizes the Liberals are doomed to be in opposition, and there is going to be a cabinet formed by our party. I want to say, in all fairness to my leader, that he made it quite clear to this house he has no wish to be Prime Minister of this country unless he has the support of the Canadian people. It is just this challenge from which the Grits are running.

Outside the house the Prime Minister has said that there was a plot. You know, Mr. Speaker, that every time there is a recorded vote it is the duty of the whips of the various parties to gather together all their members. After making a statement outside the house about a plot, the Prime Minister came into the house and said there was no collusion, but that there had been collusion developed in the last couple of days. He could not face the opposition and make those charges in the house. In the house he said there was no collusion; the whips had done their duty. The Minister of Finance did not make his move until he was advised by his own whip that there were enough members present. Then we have the spectacle of a minister going outside the house and blaming one of his colleagues, the Minister of Transport. I believe he deserves all the blame he gets.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.
