

*Administration of Justice*

I have said is a fact. There is contained in the police report a reference to the fact the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration was in his office at the time the bribe was offered.

The then minister of citizenship and immigration denied this fact as recorded at page 10534 of *Hansard* where he stated:

The hon. member for Yukon, in his question put to me, made an innuendo in trying to know where I was at the time that supposed offer was made to Mr. Lamontagne.

I want to tell the hon. member and the whole house that at no time before the occurrence of those supposed events have I been aware of anything with regard to that matter.

**Mr. Churchill:** Charges were made in the house and answered in the house.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, this is the submission I want to make in this regard. If in fact this other inquiry, which I submit was a precedent and quite a proper precedent for this house, was the result of the house wanting to determine in a judicial fashion, by a proper inquiry under all the auspices and protections of a judge, whether there were facts on which further action by the house should be taken, and if that inquiry was based on a charge by a member, surely when the then minister of citizenship and immigration was completely vindicated by Mr. Justice Dorion the hon. member for Yukon should no longer be with us. I suggest he is still here as big as life.

**Mr. Lambert:** What sort of sophistry is that?

**Mr. Greene:** I respectfully suggest this. I know that the hon. member for Yukon would obey the rules of the house and that he has respect for its rules and traditions. If in fact the Dorion inquiry was based on that premise, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should have resigned.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to interrupt the minister unless he wishes to be interrupted but would he permit a question at this time?

**Mr. Greene:** I would prefer to finish my statement, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** What about the press conference yesterday morning?

**Mr. Churchill:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I draw your attention to the fact that the minister is now dealing at length with the Rivard case and we on this side of the house claim the right to do the same thing.

[Mr. Greene.]

**Mr. Greene:** With all respect, I am trying to be helpful as best I can with regard to the procedures that I think we are embarking on here. I am trying to help the Chair and the house generally with respect to the nature of the proceedings as they are now before us.

As has been pointed out earlier, I think we have no specific and proper procedures within parliamentary rules with which to solve this very difficult and serious problem. I merely suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this precedent is a sound one, for the reasons I have stated. The Dorion inquiry was not based on charges and the result that the member who made those charges either had to substantiate them or resign. Rather, it was based on a genuine concern of the whole house and a unanimous desire to wash all the linen that had to be washed with regard to the Rivard case in a judicial way and thus determine whether any further house action should be taken. If it were otherwise in this case, if it were a case of charge and responsibility, as the hon. member for Greenwood alleges it might be, then obviously the hon. member for Yukon would have had to resign.

**Mr. Lambert:** You are wrong.

**Mr. Greene:** I suggest it is quite obvious that the precedent is before us and that the purpose of such an inquiry is that the house may determine the facts judicially in respect of a situation such as this. I think that is what an inquiry would be set up to do. I do not suggest for a moment that hon. gentleman opposite, who have been so judicious in trying to finding truth, light and probity everywhere in this land by seeking evidence in respect of bankruptcies, searching files from Vancouver to Montreal, eliciting facts, truth and light, were not most concerned in this regard. I feel very sure they were sincere in their purpose. I do not think for a moment that they have changed their coats or all of a sudden suffered a metamorphosis. What was efficient to bring out the truth last year should be efficient to bring out the truth this year, namely, a judicial inquiry. I do not think that all of a sudden by some magical potion within the past year this has become an undesirable procedure.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** How about the press conference yesterday morning?

**Mr. Greene:** I do not think for a moment that hon. gentlemen opposite are attempting to prevent the shedding of light on these matters in a judicial fashion by carrying on debate here and by preventing the inquiry