

for supporting a violation of the constitution.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order. Chair.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. When gentlemen opposite have a weak case they never want to allow the other side to be heard. I always feel that I occupy a strong position when they will not hear the truth.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask you, Mr. Speaker, if it would be in order for me to read a speech delivered in the interest of the Liberal party by the Governor General of Canada a few days ago in Toronto, a speech supporting the policy of my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and opposing the policy of the Conservative party.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The reason I called the hon. gentleman's attention to the rule is that, as I understood him, he said that the Governor General had violated the constitution. Perhaps I misunderstood him.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, if you will read the debate which took place on the change of government in this House, you will see that I not only stated that, but proved it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw the expression he has just used with regard to the Governor General.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I can only say that if hon. gentlemen will refer to the debate I speak of, they will find that, with the Speaker in the Chair, I was allowed to speak for over an hour and to lay before the House reasons to show that, in my judgment, the constitution had been violated.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I expect the hon. gentleman to withdraw the expression he has used with regard to the Governor General. We are not referring to the debate which took place last year.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am perfectly in order in referring to a debate which took place last year.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not dispute that, but I say that the hon. gentleman should not use the expression I have referred to.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman does not find that in the debate—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I expect the hon. gentleman to withdraw the expression.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman does not find that, with the Speaker

in the Chair, I was allowed to debate that question, I will be quite prepared to withdraw that statement. And I am quite sure that my hon. friend will see the justice of that remark. Now, I propose—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I propose to close very shortly.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not think hon. gentlemen will improve their position by these interruptions. They will find that nothing will be gained by trying to stifle debate. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have all but done—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. But there are one or two subjects to which I wish to refer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not think the hon. gentleman will say that I am mistaken in saying that the rule I have referred to exists. It is absolutely against the rules of the House to speak disrespectfully of the Governor General, and I think it is contrary to the spirit of those rules to say that the Governor General has violated the constitution.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What I say, and what I did say, was that, in my judgment, such was the case, and that the responsibility was assumed by the hon. gentlemen opposite. I have been in this House for a great many years, and I have heard this question discussed again and again. I can refer you to a case where Mr. Mackenzie was the leader of the Government in this House and when a question arose of a similar character. I only wish to maintain the rights of the members of this House, and I wish to do so with all deference to the Chair. I should be very sorry to say anything that was not entirely in accordance with the rules of this House. But I differ on the question of fact, and you cannot make me say that I do not think that the Governor General violated the constitution. I could not conscientiously say that, because I do not think that it would be true. I say, therefore, that when the right hon. gentleman assumed responsibility for the act, I deal with him. The hon. gentleman maintains that I am wrong, that the Governor General did not violate the constitution.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is a very poor subterfuge.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman may think it is a subterfuge.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I understand the hon. gentleman will not withdraw the expression which he has used against the Governor General.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not prepared to say that, in my judgment, the