

Administration of Justice

privilege on its hands. There is not one member in this house who can stand up and say it is not important. Certainly, the type of allegation made against these Privy Counsellors is most serious. It is most improper, I submit, for the minister to make this charge.

The action and the attitude of the Liberal party in connection with these charges is most unjust. I am certain, if I were to make a suggestion that adultery had been committed by members of the Liberal party, and there was some outcry about it, some of the members opposite would not think an inquiry before which all the members would have to appear would be the right way to solve the problem.

However, apparently they have gone along with the Minister of Justice and his method of handling this matter. The Minister makes charges against hon. members here. When there is a legitimate complaint about those charges and we say substantiate them, the attitude of hon. members opposite is, let us inquire and find out. I would suggest to hon. members that they honestly and sincerely think about that. I suggest there are two separate questions. This inquiry into the handling of the matter is one thing, but the allegations and imputations against the persons and reputations of members in this house is a separate and distinct matter.

I invite the Prime Minister to get up and suggest to the house, since he appears to be so willing to have an inquiry, how he would handle the privilege part of this question. I really am a little amazed that this government is now so willing, anxious, and in

such a hurry to investigate. I suppose they are anxious because of the security risk involved. The Minister of Justice sits there saying nothing. The indication is that he heard about the case two or three years ago, perhaps somewhat vaguely involving security risks, and he now brings it forward in this nebulous manner.

Mr. Speaker, obviously there is a question of privilege for the whole house involved in the manner in which the Minister of Justice carries out his duty in connection with questions of security in this country. If there is a security risk involved, and if the minister has had this information for two or three years, I suggest he should resign for being so delinquent in his duty that he did not bring it forward before this time. There has not been one reason put forward by the Prime Minister or by the Minister of Justice in respect of why the minister brings it forward now, and only now. If it was so serious, why let it lie quiet all this time? Could we have an answer to that?

It appears that this minister and the party over there are taking the attitude which I thought I had illustrated so well when I mentioned that were I or someone to make an allegation that someone over there was an adulterer, the best way to investigate this allegation would be to bring in every one in the party before a board of inquiry to ascertain the facts.

An hon. Member: Six o'clock.

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