

Administration of Justice

the Munsinger affair, since it is now generally admitted that there is a Munsinger affair.

The Conservatives feel offended. They said the Minister of Justice is making insinuations right and left. Insinuations right and left, Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of them in the last four years in this house, since we came here, at least from the Conservatives.

A little earlier the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) said, quite rightly, and please note that I am not a Liberal at all, I am not at all interested in protecting the Prime Minister's seat or that of any minister, but I will say that for years the Conservatives have been making treacherous attacks against people who did not deserve that.

Mr. Lambert: Against whom?

Mr. Caouette: They even insinuated that the former Postmaster General, then Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, received in his office criminals, that is what I said, or people connected with organized crime in Canada. When the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) asked the minister in the house: "Where were you when Rivard or his lawyers or his accomplices came to your office?" Insinuations were made.

More were made also a little earlier when the hon. member for Edmonton West asked the hon. member for Lapointe: "Who prepared the motion you have just submitted to the Speaker?" As if the hon. member for Lapointe was not as intelligent as the hon. member for Edmonton West.

The hon. member for Lapointe can eat up one by one fifty members like the hon. member for Edmonton West. We have heard insinuations since 1962, during all the previous sessions, and particularly since yesterday.

When the Minister of Justice asked what part the Leader of the Opposition had played in the Munsinger case, the latter should have answered, but instead he said to the Minister of Justice: "Give us proof". And please note, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Justice had been, for three weeks, the target of all kinds of sarcastic remarks from the official opposition; they were trying to belittle him, to flatten him out with the Spencer case, which was discussed here for approximately three weeks.

When, in a moment of impatience, the Minister of Justice asked the Leader of the Opposition: "Why not tell us about the part you played in the Munsinger case?" the immediate reply was: "Bring us before a judicial commission or a judicial inquiry."

[Mr. Caouette.]

The pure are not all to be found among the Conservatives. Since yesterday, the Prime Minister has been offering to set up a judicial commission or a judicial inquiry where the statements made by the Minister of Justice himself will be dealt with and the actions and participation of the Leader of the Opposition examined by a judge or commissioner. Mr. Speaker, I maintain that the Conservatives are afraid of such a judicial commission.

We of the Cr ditistes wholeheartedly support the proposal made by the Prime Minister, who is willing to have that commission set up immediately, within the next 48 hours, so that the Munsinger case can be fully examined and cleared up.

Then, Mr. Speaker, the statements or, if you prefer, the insinuations made by the Minister of Justice will be studied. Should he be proven wrong, I would be the first to ask for the minister's resignation, but let us give him the opportunity to go before that judicial inquiry.

• (12:00 noon)

[English]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Will the hon. member permit a question? I am a little mad and I am a little sick. I think it was a sickening spectacle I saw, and I am going to comment on that.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Nowlan: The question I have is this: If the members of your party had been the subject matter of the press conference held yesterday, would you have been supporting the government as you are suggesting you are going to support it; in other words, would the inquiry, rather than the principle of having the names named, satisfy you?

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, the Minister's press conference can be looked into by the judicial inquiry just like any other question.

If the judicial inquiry's report or decision should indicate that the Minister did not act according to justice and order, we can always convene the committee on privileges and elections, before which any minister or member can be called and judged.

Mr. Speaker, we support the right hon. Prime Minister's suggestion. The Conservatives should quit acting like hypocrites and accept the judicial inquiry now offered. Let us cease giving the Canadian people the shameful spectacle the Conservatives are now inflicting upon the house.