

to this house and ask the hon. member if he is ready to accept it? In those circumstances the House of Commons would be satisfied and the integrity of members of the house vindicated. I humbly submit to Your Honour that if this procedure could be followed, if you would ask the hon. member to accept such a declaration, if it were satisfactory to him, we could accept it also.

Mr. C. E. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am not so sure that this type of investigation would be satisfactory. When you speak of putting this case before a house committee, that cannot be compared in any sense to a court of justice, because unquestionably on a house committee the predominance would be Liberal and other parties would be represented proportionately. I do not think the question will be settled in that way. I am very much in doubt about the translation that has been made of the statement. The Prime Minister has not yet answered the hon. member for York-Sunbury, who asked whether this was a confirmed translation. There are some of us here who do not know whether that is a proper translation.

Mr. LALONDE: The motion is based upon the French version.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The hon. member himself has stated that the translation into English was not a proper translation. Further, I think that what you said when you first spoke was quite proper and I agree with the stand you took. You asked the hon. member if he was prepared to withdraw his statement; if not, other means would have to be taken. When he was speaking the hon. member said definitely that if there was a charge against any member of this house or any member of the cabinet he was prepared to withdraw it. Without giving him a chance to say anything further on the question, the Prime Minister moved his motion. Then the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains made a further clarification of his former statement.

Mr. HOMUTH: He just beclouded it.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is what you think. Perhaps an investigation might prove a whole lot more than you have in mind.

Mr. HOMUTH: I have not anything in mind.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The hon. member made a statement clarifying what he had said the first time. Without question he withdrew it unconditionally.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That again is your opinion. I hold no brief for the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains, but I do like to see justice done. I do not care what he said before, he has said now that he will withdraw unconditionally.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): We are divided even on that. This just goes to show what kind of procedure will be followed in the committee, I do not think you, sir, would consider a house committee as being comparable to a court in dealing with a case like this. As the Prime Minister has said, this is a serious charge. I do not think the millionaires are going to take much offence.

Mr. HOMUTH: Who are the millionaires?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Maybe you can name them.

Mr. HOMUTH: I do not know them, but you referred to them. If you do not know them, why talk about them?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): You were talking about them.

Mr. HOMUTH: I was not talking about them. Name them if you know them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. HOMUTH: The people get sick and tired of this.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman who has the floor has the right to speak.

Mr. HOMUTH: But he talks too much.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the house to remember that we are discussing a very serious matter. Every member of this house is entitled to speak and to be heard.

Mr. HOMUTH: People are being accused.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am sorry if I seem to have trod on the toes of the hon. member.

Mr. HOMUTH: You have not trod on my toes, don't worry about that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the hon. member for Waterloo South not to interrupt the hon. gentleman who is speaking.

Mr. HOMUTH: All right, but he should not make allegations.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I believe it would be in the interests of all concerned if the Prime Minister would withdraw the motion he has placed before the house.