

Divorce Bills

citizens their rights under the law. Never did I hear that mentioned in this house in the past when the C.C.F. was here in strength.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman could I ask the minister a question?

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Churchill: That was a party which stood, along with other parties, for the rights of the individual, and here is a denial of freedom under the law.

Mr. Howard: You are denying it.

Mr. Churchill: It is a complete denial of the bill of rights.

Mr. Howard: You are denying it.

An hon. Member: Go back to the hills.

Mr. Churchill: It is a shocking abuse—

Mr. Howard: You are the ones who are finally denying it.

Mr. Churchill: —of freedom within parliament. The hon. member for Skeena and the hon. member for Timiskaming both know that every effort was made this session—

Mr. Howard: That is not true.

Mr. Churchill: —to reach agreement—

Mr. Howard: That is not a true statement.

Mr. Churchill: —and all sorts of meetings were held. They were advised of the difficulties in the way, and yet they stand up here—

Mr. Howard: That is not true.

Mr. Churchill: —attempting to hold a shotgun to parliament in its dying days.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Churchill: They do this at the expense of—

Mr. Howard: You are not telling the truth now.

Mr. Churchill: —and in denial of the rights of 589 citizens of this country.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege, the hon. member said the Minister of Veterans Affairs has not told the truth. I am asking him to retract it.

Mr. McDonald (Hamilton South): I should think so.

The Chairman: Order. I will hear the hon. member on the question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

An hon. Member: Withdraw or be named.

Mr. Howard: Oh, here is this threat of naming again that comes up. It is the first thing that comes to one's mind, to name someone.

An hon. Member: Withdraw.

Mr. Howard: If you will contain your blood pressure for a moment, I will. I withdraw and say this, that what the minister said is not in accordance with the facts; and that is a true statement. That was placed on the record yesterday. When the minister gets up here and invites us to get down in the gutter with him, I refuse to co-operate.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Morton: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member has made an attack upon the minister. I can assure the committee and all hon. members of this house that the minister has done all he can within the realm of practical politics to come to some solution of this problem. I want to say that some of us have negotiated with hon. gentlemen on the other side of the chamber. We came to what we thought was the principle for a solution and waited until we had word from another group as to whether the general principles agreed upon would bring about the solution desired. But it was only at the last minute that we heard this arrangement had fallen through.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Regier: Which other group?

Mr. Morton: I have had private conversations on this matter. The hon. member was kind enough yesterday not to divulge the names of people involved, and I am not going to involve people either. All I am saying is that we waited, and so did the people who are now trying to heckle me, until we thought a solution had been reached. It was at the eleventh hour that we found nothing could be done. I say it is most unfair to blame the minister, who helped us try to reach a solution and who himself was let down at the last minute.

Mr. Nowlan: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Howard: On a point of order—

Mr. Nowlan: I am on a question of privilege. The hon. member for Skeena did withdraw, or at least in part, or pretended to withdraw—as he does in regard to most things he says in this house—the allegation that the Minister of Veterans Affairs had told an untruth. Then he said he descended into the gutter, or words to that effect. That is just as unparliamentary and I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member—or “the member”; forget the “honourable”—for Skeena should stand up and withdraw more of the canards which he has been throwing out, and particularly the one with regard to the Minister of Veterans Affairs.