

Let us not talk about furniture scandals. That matter was dug up by an enterprising newspaper man. He first brought up the story and the two ministers in question could not rush quickly enough to make exculpatory or incriminating statements, depending on which way you look at it, to the press. But the press put out the story. Nothing was said about it by the opposition.

● (2:00 p.m.)

The former Minister without Portfolio was chased out by his own administration. Mr. Dupuis was put out by his own side. The former member for Dollard was not mentioned by the hon. member for Yukon until that hon. member, then parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister, identified himself in the house. Let us not have this nonsense about things being said outside the house. When we have had anything to say we have said it inside the house face to face. I should like to see the Minister of Justice stand up and accuse any one of these Privy Councillors, colleagues of mine in this house, if he has the guts to do it. That is what I want.

This business of being led on at a press conference does not excuse the minister. If he has made a statement he must stand by it. This is not a picayune thing. This is a wholly serious matter involving by inference morality and security. There was the allegation that it could be even more serious in some respects than the Profumo case. Well, I know some people like great headlines and anything which involves a radius of six inches from the navel is always more attractive to them. I agree entirely with the assertions of the hon. member for Greenwood on the matter of principle.

In order to make this perfectly clear, and taking account of those who would assert that there are no charges against the minister, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr):

That the general and unspecified charges of involvement in the so-called Munsinger case against an unspecified number of members of this house, all Privy Councillors, made by the Minister of Justice, at a press conference on the morning of Thursday, March 10, constitute an unwarranted and unsubstantiated attack on the character, integrity and privileges of the said members, and this house directs that the Minister of Justice must forthwith from his seat specify and substantiate his charges and in default thereof he will withdraw such charges and allegations, apologize to the said members and to this house, and resign from this house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, I know you are seeing this motion for the first time. Bearing

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in mind what Your Honour has said about other motions I would submit to you that this motion does in a number of respects—I trust in all respects—meet the requirements in that it prefers a charge against the minister and directs certain action. It is specific. It refers to one particular incident and not to a whole course of conduct. It is a substantive motion in so far as the terms of privilege are concerned. It is entirely within the terms of privilege and therefore it is not subject to standing order 41 in requiring notice to be given. I submit that on all counts this motion meets the requirements.

Mr. Speaker: May I say that the hon. gentleman would perhaps agree with the Chair that if in 100 years of parliamentary history motions of this type have never been accepted before there is a prima facie case against the motion now proposed.

I cannot agree that this motion should be accepted, certainly not for the reasons the hon. member has mentioned. He himself says it is a substantive motion. I am in full agreement with that. It is a substantive motion and because of this, in the same way as the other motions made yesterday, I submit it might have been moved in other circumstances as a private member's motion. The motion requires notice and for this reason it cannot be accepted by the Chair.

Mr. McIlraith: We do not have copies of the motion. Is there a copy available?

Mr. Lambert: I am sorry. It is a manuscript. It was sent to the Speaker only. I myself have no other copy. I apologize to the house but this has been the practice on many occasions.

Mr. Speaker: As hon. members have noted, the Chair was seized of this motion at the last moment. I was not in the chair myself when it was moved originally and I took it for granted it had been read into the record. In any case, perhaps hon. members would allow me to read the motion at this time.

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