

Administration of Justice

away, at the same time it is not in a personal sense and it must not be. I think of the way in which Sir Winston Churchill behaved after the war, when he was driven from public life. That is what everybody thought. He was voted out. The crowds turned out in 1945 to see, but not to hear. They turned him out.

● (4:20 p.m.)

Attlee took his place, the man who had been deputy prime minister, and as leader of the opposition he said harsh things of Attlee.

I saw something of the grandeur of parliamentary life just a year ago when the Prime Minister and I were representatives for Canada at Sir Winston's funeral, outside St. Paul's cathedral. The Prime Minister indicates he saw it too. The little man Attlee, the man of courage, the pacifist who joined in 1914 and refused to carry a revolver, who used nothing but a cane and won the D.S.O. doing it, after all the bitterness, there he was sitting on the steps leading up to St. Paul's honouring his great political adversary in death. We have got to catch something of that in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I rue the future of our country if this kind of thing goes on. This parliament is dead unless we resuscitate it—dead. I remember the great debates when I first came here. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith) and I are among the few still here who came in at that time, and may I say we are looking forward to years of further service. We came in at that time and there were tremendous debates, strong, powerful, often violent, but we did not lose a sense of proportion. We dared not do this.

Mr. Speaker, this institution must not fail. Without it there is no freedom. We are here today not only as the custodians of the present and the inheritors of the past but, Mr. Speaker, we are as well the hope of this institution's future. Let us get to work on the many issues facing Canada today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Freedom comes first before economic welfare, and we fought the battle of freedom on the Spencer case, however much we disagreed. We have the terrible issue facing Canada today of the highest cost of living in our history. We have got to do something about it. We have an ever increasing adverse balance of payments situation. We have a Bank Act that has to be placed in effective shape if the economy of

this nation is to be assured. We have to tackle redistribution. We don't want another election under the old system. We don't want the Prime Minister rushing out into the night saying, "I want a majority." We want none of that.

We want action and leadership from the Prime Minister of Canada. That is what we ask for, and that is the reason I point this fact out to him that, with all the respect I have for him and his contribution, it will always be a matter of wonder to me that, when mention was made of the Munsinger case, a large measure of applause came from him, not once but twice. I say to the Prime Minister that that to me was a revelation which from this moment on I will eradicate from my mind, but it is something that is indicative of a state of mind that is not in keeping with the traditional greatness of this chamber.

Mr. Speaker, let's go to work.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I will neither be as long nor as entertaining as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker), but I think I shall be much more to the point.

I would like to tell hon. members of this house that I, and all the members on this side of the house as well as members on the other side of the house, are concerned, and very much concerned, about what is happening to parliament. However, what has occurred is that the hon. members opposite only today are beginning to wonder what has happened to parliament.

For the past several years there has been introduced into this House of Commons a procedure, a strategy which, in fact, is destroying parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cardin: The hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) a little while ago spoke of trials by witch-hunt, accusations and insinuations. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what we have been fighting against. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition speaks of the resurrection of parliament. Before parliament can be resurrected we must rid ourselves of this type of insinuation and accusation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cardin: This type of thing was particularly evident, I think, in the debate on the