

Mr. Clark: The Prime Minister has quoted from a variety of sources, parliamentary and others, claiming some kind of grievance on the part of the government and claiming there was a question of privilege that could be raised. The Prime Minister, although he does not have much regard for this place, it seems, from time to time, must know the rules. He must know those rules. The rule is that if he had a legitimate grievance, or if he had a legitimate question of privilege or breach thereof which he has just been claiming, then he should have raised it at the time he was seized of that breach of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Putting aside the theatrics, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the Prime Minister did not raise a question of privilege in relation to the matters he has just cited. I notice that in the absence of the hon. member for St. John's West, the Prime Minister attacks him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Where is he?

Mr. Clark: That does not bother me so much as the fact that it was a very partial citation the Prime Minister gave. He did not read into the record everything said by my colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West. He did not quote the hon. member in the immediately preceding section, where he said:

The RCMP is a fine police force, but I look at all police forces with a healthy skepticism and I am not afraid to say it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The Prime Minister did not, in his reference to "bringing to heel", quote the further words—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: We hear from the Minister of National Revenue, from whom we always hear from his seat.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): I did not read it all.

Mr. Clark: The hon. member for St. John's West went on to say, and this very important, sir:

—their political masters who encouraged them, or who are hiding them, or who directed them or who condoned those acts, have to be brought to heel also.

Mr. Trudeau: That is what I said.

Mr. Clark: That, sir, is precisely what is at issue here, because the issue here is one of ministerial responsibility.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The issue throughout this debate has related to what kind of order or general direction was given by the Prime Minister or the Solicitor General of Canada that caused members of the security force to engage in illegal acts, and what offends us on this side of the House is that the government of Canada has tried consistently to make the Royal

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Canadian Mounted Police carry the can for the decisions it makes.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1532)

Mr. Trudeau: That is a new point of order.

Mr. Clark: At this moment I do not want to detain the House at length on the question of ministerial responsibility. In this affair, as in so many others, the government has seen fit to try to blame public servants for actions which have been taken by the government of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Let me deal with some of the matters to which the Prime Minister referred. The Prime Minister quoted the hon. member for Central Nova, but the nature of the observations by the hon. member were different from the accusation made by the Prime Minister. Also, they differed significantly in location. The Prime Minister could not find anything said by the hon. member for Central Nova in the record of *Hansard* which was at all similar to the accusation made by the Prime Minister against the Conservative party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: He could not find it because it was not there. It is for that reason he then went well beyond the practices of the House of Commons and began to quote from newspapers. That was because he could not build his case upon what was said in this chamber.

Mr. Trudeau: So what?

Mr. Clark: The Prime Minister says, "So what?" That indicates his understanding of the rules of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister has said other things about the House of Commons in the past, and today he says, "So what?"

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harquail: Apologize to the RCMP.

Mr. Baldwin: That is the man who said, "Just watch me".

Mr. Clark: Let me come to what the Prime Minister quoted the hon. member for Central Nova as having said. He quoted that hon. member as having said, "Among those who would have motivations would be..." Now, that is not an accusation—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: "Among those who would have motivations..." was said outside the House. What the Prime Minister of Canada said in the House of Commons, in a direct accusation, can be found in *Hansard*. I am not quoting from some newspaper, because the record of what the Prime Minister said