

*Alleged Corruption in Government*

procedure is not appropriate. It is not in accordance with the rules, under the guise of debating the need for urgency of debate, as stipulated by standing order 26, for him to go into a general rehashing of previous arguments he made in the House of Commons some three or four months ago, and which were dealt with at that time.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I would be the first to agree with the amiable minister, but I ask what about the Stonehill case? Let us hear something about that. The Minister of Justice laughs. Did he conceal this too? That is what the country wants to know.

They say we exaggerate but, Mr. Speaker, this motion is one that covers a matter of urgent public importance, the need of assuring that public morality, political morality be upheld by the government, that the Prime Minister act with dispatch, and that he remove all suggestion of wrongdoing as ascertained.

I say that this very day the former minister without portfolio has received gross unfairness at the hands of the Prime Minister. All kinds of innuendos have been spread across the country. Today the former minister made an explanation which was such a mystery that by the time he got through I could only hope he does not try to use it as an explanation in any other place, because it is a complete enigma from beginning to end.

This case alone is sufficient to support the urgency of debate now. We have not had such an opportunity and we will not have any opportunity during the next two, three, four or five weeks that this session continues. Therefore I say to you, sir, that on the basis of the great need for the restoration in the thinking of the Canadian people that honour is being maintained in government, this motion should be accepted.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérard Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke):** Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear, at the beginning of my remarks, that I have no intention to stick up for the Liberal party, or to cover up what does not smell good. However, I believe that the motion moved by the official opposition creates confusion about our work as members of parliament, that is as legislators, and the work of the police forces throughout the country.

I believe a distinction should be made between the legislative power and the policing power.

At the present time an investigation is going on, the Dorion inquiry. Besides, the R.C.M.P. is investigating the case of the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville; the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Rouleau) has resigned the post he held in the government to give a free hand to the Dorion inquiry.

In my opinion, the terms of the motion put forward by the Conservative party are so vague that we could at any time, in this house, speak about sub judice matters, such as those that are being studied by the Dorion inquiry. There might be in the present Liberal administration other cases of possible scandals of which it would be befitting that we be informed, and I believe that these cases are not of such importance that they should delay the business of the house.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I do not personally believe I should vote in favour of a motion whose object is to inquire into cases which the commission is presently examining, a commission which has been suggested by the Conservative party and which is at the present time putting the final touch to its work.

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, a while ago when I heard the hon. leader of the official opposition tell us that the government should allow the immediate formation of a special parliamentary committee to conduct a public inquiry, without any reservation, on the whole question of these scandals, rumours and statements, true or false, I was wondering whether the leader of the official opposition, who was formerly the prime minister of Canada, remembered the time he was prime minister, when a senator resigned his post in the upper chamber and other ministers had to hand in their resignations, at the end of his mandate as prime minister.

The immediate establishment of a special committee was not suggested at that time.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, this means that the two old-line political parties have been faced with the same problems and have been acting exactly the same way for many years.

I do not wish by taking the Leader of the Opposition to task to lessen the responsibility of the government; far from it.

Some serious charges have been laid against certain departments and are discussed during the Dorion inquiry, such as the Rivard case. Other scandals occurred afterwards.